DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Gill returns to T20Is as vice-captain for Asia Cup

Page 13

DH CHANGEMAKERS
TO WATCH IN
2026
Nominations Open

Each year, DH recognises extraordinary people who persevere and overcome difficult odds to usher in change.

Since the DH Changemaker awards were launched in 2019, we have identified 150-plus trailblazers from across Karnataka in areas such as community empowerment, health, conservation, entrepreneurship, and the arts.

This year, it is time to begin our search for 15 Changemakers -- we seek to highlight their efforts, celebrate their achievements, and share their stories. On New Year's Day in 2026, we will publish print, web and video stories about these achievers.

We invite nominations from readers starting today. Send in details of individuals (below 45) and teams that you think deserve the Changemakers title and honour.

The last date for submitting nominations is September 18, 2025. Scan the QR code to make a nomination.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Beijing's Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New Delhi on Tuesday. AFP

India mulls early harvest border deal with China

New Delhi earlier opposed it; 'steady progress' in ties: PM

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India on Tuesday agreed to explore an early harvest deal on boundary delimitation with China, although it was earlier opposed to resolving the dispute in a piecemeal manner.

At the same time, the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a 2005 agreement, which had stipulated that the boundary settlement must be final, covering all sectors—western, middle and eastern.

As National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the current special representatives of India and China for boundary negotiations met in New Delhi, the two sides agreed to create mechanisms for consultations between the military commanders in the eastern and the middle sectors of the disputed boundary to avert flashpoints.

A similar mechanism already exists in the western sector and played a key role in resolving the 2020-2024 military stand-off along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

▸ Modi, Page 3D
Taiwan part of China: India, Page 6

Bill: PM, CMs can lose seat if in 30-day custody

Among 3 Bills to be introduced in lower House today

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A prime minister, chief minister and Union and state ministers who are arrested and detained in custody for a consecutive 30 days for offences that attract a jail term of at least five years will face ouster on the 31st day, according to three Bills to be introduced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

However, according to the Bills, nothing prevents the the PM, CM and ministers from being "subsequently appointed" on their release from custody.

Home Minister Amit Shah will introduce The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025, The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill and The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Lower House. A motion to send the three Bills to a Joint Committee of Parliament for further scrutiny will also be moved by Shah.

The Bills said there is a need to amend the law for providing a legal framework for "removal" of the prime minister, Union minister and chief minister and ministers in states and Union Territories who are arrested and detained in custody on account of serious criminal charges.

"A minister, who is facing allegations of serious criminal offences, arrested and detained in custody, may thwart or hinder the canons of constitutional morality and principles of good governance and eventually diminish the constitutional trust reposed by people in him," it said.

It said elected representatives "represent hopes and aspirations" of the people and are "expected that they rise above political interests and act only in the public interest and for the welfare of people. It is expected that the character and conduct of ministers holding the office should be beyond any ray of suspicion," it said.

Seeking to insert a new provision 5(A) in Article 75 of the Constitution, The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill proposes that a minister, who for 30 consecutive days is arrested and detained in custody, on allegation of committing an offence "under any law for the time being in force" and punishable with a jail term to five years or more, shall be removed from his office by the President on the advice of the prime minister on 31st day.

If the prime minister does not send such an advice by the 31st day, the minister will cease to hold the office with effect from the day falling thereafter.

▸ Bill, Page 3D
Rs 62k-cr Tejas deal cleared, Page 5

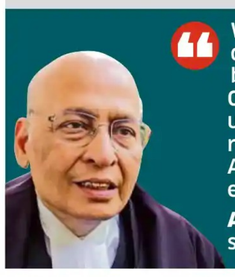
WHAT THE BILL SAYS

For minister in custody for consecutive 30 days for an offence that attracts a 5-year jail term

- PM/CM will have to recommend their removal on 31st day to President/ Governor/Lieutenant Governor
- If no recommendation, he/she will cease to be a Minister
- Upon release from custody, nothing prevents them from being reappointed

For Prime Minister/Chief Minister

- If in custody for consecutive 30 days, PM/CM will have to resign by 31st day
- If they don't resign on 31st day, they will cease to be PM/ CM next day
- Upon release from custody, nothing prevents them from being reappointed



"What a vicious circle! Best way to destabilise opposition is to unleash biased central agencies to arrest Opposition CMs and despite being unable to defeat them electorally, remove them by arbitrary arrests!! And no ruling party incumbent CM ever touched!!

Abhishek Singhvi,
senior lawyer and Congress MP

Bill on online gaming okayed

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Online Gaming Bill, which aims to make online betting a punishable offence, sources in the government said on Tuesday.

Details on Page 6

VP poll: Ex-SC judge Sudershan is Oppn candidate

NEW DELHI, DHNS

B Sudershan Reddy at the Delhi airport. PTI

The Opposition on Tuesday named former Supreme Court judge Justice B Sudershan Reddy as its "joint candidate" for the September 9 Vice-Presidential elections, spicing up the poll battle with the BJP-led NDA that has picked CP Radhakrishnan.

If the BJP intended to put the DMK in a spot by choosing Radhakrishnan, a Tamil, a section in the Opposition believes that the choice of Justice Sudershan, a Telugu, could create a political dilemma for N Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP and K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS.

The AAP, which has left the I.N.D.I.A bloc, has also pledged its support to Justice Reddy. Sources said Arvind Kejriwal was briefed by Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien about the consensus reached over the candidate following which the AAP chief gave his party's green signal.

The name was given the final stamp at a meeting of I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's official residence in New Delhi. Sources said they were pitching the battle as "Constitution and Idea of India versus RSS-BJP".

The announcement also caps two days of intense consultations during which names of former Isro scientist Mylswamy Annadurai, Mahatma Gandhi's great grandson Tushar Gandhi and former Rajya Sabha MP Bhalchandra Mungekar also did the rounds.

▸ VP poll, Page 3D

Internal quota: SC (Right), SC (Left) to get 6%

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state Cabinet on Tuesday decided to accept the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission's report on internal reservation, but with some alterations: both the SC (Right) and SC (Left) communities will get 6% each.

According to top sources, the government is likely to promulgate an ordinance as the legislature session is set to end soon.

"Some changes have to be made before we can introduce it as a bill. But we need some 15-20 days to do it, by which time the ongoing legislature session will be over. So, we will mostly introduce it as an ordinance and later introduce the bill in the next session," the source added.

As per the new formula evolved by the Cabinet, the SC (Right) and SC (Left) will get 6% each, while the 'touchable' Dalits (Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha) and most backward/nomadic communities get 5%.

The Das Commission, which submitted its report on August 4, had recommended dividing the 17% reservation matrix amongst 5 groups.

▸ Quota, Page 3D

Drag on growth: CAG on 'guarantees' impact on finances

BENGALURU, DHNS

Implementation of the five 'guarantee' schemes without rationalising existing subsidies will exert pressure on the state's resources and impact fiscal deficits and debt levels, the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has warned.

The CAG said this in its state finance audit report for the year ended March 31, 2024, which was tabled in the Assembly on Tuesday. This is the first CAG audit to feature the 'guarantee' schemes.

The 2023-24 fiscal was the first year of the Congress' government in which the 'guarantees'- Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyoti, Anna Bhagya, Shakti and Yuva Nidhi - were rolled out with a budget provision of Rs 36,538 crore.

The 'guarantee' schemes accounted for 15% of the revenue expenditure in 2023-24, the CAG pointed out.

"During 2023-24, while the state's revenue grew by 1.86% over last year, its expenditure grew by 12.54%. The increase in growth of expenditure was mainly on account of the guarantee schemes which was the contributing factor for revenue deficit of Rs 9,271 crore," the CAG said.

"This mismatch of receipt and expenditure resulted in the state witnessing revenue deficit of Rs 9,271 crore after its recovery during 2022-23 from Covid-19 economic slowdown," the CAG said.

▸ CAG, Page 3D

Bill on illegal buildings passed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Assembly on Tuesday passed a Bill that will allow municipal commissioners to regularise unlawful buildings by levying a penalty, skirting close to the Akrama-Sakrama scheme that is pending adjudication in the Supreme Court.

The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill also exempts small properties from requiring commencement certificates (CC) and occupancy certificates (OC). Page 3

Dharmasthala: Reddy targets Cong MP Senthil

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy on Tuesday alleged that Tamil Nadu Congress MP and former Dakshina Kannada Deputy Commissioner Sasikanth Senthil was part of a conspiracy to malign the religious town of Dharmasthala. Speaking to reporters, Reddy claimed the entire case is being orchestrated through Senthil.

Details on Page 3D

Allegations of murders false: Heggade

BENGALURU, PTI: Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple, has dismissed allegations regarding the Soujanya case and claims of multiple murders, rapes and burials across Dharmasthala over a period of two decades as "baseless and false" and welcomed the SIT probe to bring the truth to light.

Details on Page 3D

POWER FAILURE

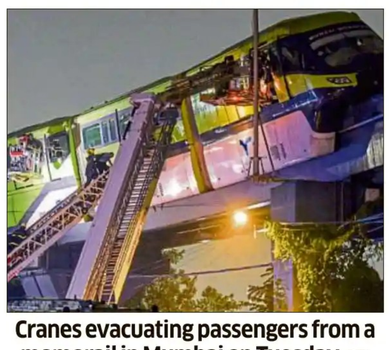
782 rescued from 2 stranded Mumbai monorails

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Two monorails train got stuck in Mumbai due to power failure amid heavy rains, leading to a massive operation involving multiple agencies to rescue 782-odd passengers.

While 582 commuters were rescued from one monorail which was stuck on the tracks near Mysore Colony in Chembur, over 200 were evacuated from another monorail train which was successfully towed back to the nearby Wadala station.

With the AC unit shutting off due to power failure in the Chembur incident, passengers felt suffocated in the coaches.



Cranes evacuating passengers from a momorail in Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Of the 582 rescued passengers, 14 suffocated passengers were treated onsite and allowed to go while one was sent to Sion Hospital.

"There was complete suffocation. Darkness made it worse. People switched on mobile flashlights, some fainted, children and women were crying. We were drenched in sweat," recounted a visibly shaken commuter after being rescued.

The monorail got stuck because of a "minor power supply issue", according to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), which runs the Mumbai Monorail.

The fire force rushed with snorkels and ladders but it took more than an hour to gain access and bring down the people from a height of around six metres on a curve.

▸ Monorail, Page 3D

ADVT

PROTECT AND ENHANCE YOUR HEARING THIS GANESH CHATURTHI WITH SHREYA HEARING CLINIC

Dr. Sathya Ranna, Director, Shreya Hearing Clinic, who holds a PhD in Audiology, says, "Ganesh Chaturthi is fast approaching and all senior citizens and others who are vulnerable to loud noises must keep their hearing protected."

AVOIDING HEARING LOSS CAUSED BY NOISE POLLUTION

Noise cannot be avoided. However, try to minimise the amount of time spent around noise or wear protection. Be aware of damaging noises such as lawn mowers, freeway traffic, airport traffic, subways, pubs, loud movie theatres and overcrowded public areas. If you have to raise your voice to be heard by someone within arm's length, the noise is likely too loud.

Keep the volume of your iPod or radio at a moderate level. If your work involves loud machinery, always wear protective earplugs or earmuffs. If you live near a busy road and find traffic noise disturbing at night, consider sleeping earplugs.

Shreya Hearing Clinic has numerous clinics across Karnataka and Telangana, and help people overcome hearing loss induced by noise, age related or otherwise. The clinics offer world latest technology with Bluetooth and surround sound and object-oriented sound systems, to ensure clients hear remarkably well even in noisy or complicated situations.

REVOLUTIONARY HEARING AIDS FOR AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE AT SHREYA HEARING CLINIC

Hearing aids come in many different styles, from digital hearing aids, iPhone hearing aids to rechargable hearing aids. Each device looks and feels different than the next. They come in a number of sizes from the Invisible-In-Canal to a Mini Receiver-In-Canal. Choose a hearing aid depending on your hearing loss, ears, lifestyle and budget.

Shreya Hearing Clinic offers advanced hearing aids which encourage you to follow an active lifestyle and enjoy time in the gym or playing sports.

- Most hearing aids have high Ingress Protection (IP) ratings, which make them effective against moisturem dust and dirt and are practical for all-day, everyday use
- The hearing aids cut down background noise so you only hear the sounds you want to hear
- The secure fit ensures they don't slip off/out

SHREYA HEARING CLINIC - A HUB FOR NEW-AGE HEARING AIDS

Today, hearing aids are a mini-computer for your ears, driven by Algorithms and AI base. Shreya Hearing Clinic also offers pioneering hearing aids that monitor the brain and body activity and provide convenient feature to simplify your life.

Today's hearing aids are called healthables as they help you do the things you love and live a more fulfilled life with a sense of freedom. The hearing aids can detect falls and alert your loved ones, monitor your heart rate, remind you to take your medication, translate over 27 languages in realtime, and of course deliver superior sound quality.

Dr. Sathya Ranna's SHRÉYA HEARING CLINIC

STAY CONNECTED

The advanced hearing aids put you at ease in social situations, by amplifying the sounds you want to hear while reducing background noise. Latest technology hearing aids like Dolby Digital or Dolby Atmos offers surround-sound technology, which expands on existing surround sound systems by adding height channels, allowing sounds to be interpreted as three-dimensional objects with neither horizontal nor vertical limitations. With this technology, the hearing impaired can listen to clear speech in noisy and crowded places like parties or marriage halls.

S Ambuja Narayana, a Homemaker and President of NRI Parents Association and Mr Krishna, owner of saloon chain are some of the many individuals who lead a very active life, enjoy YouTube and WhatsApp and stay connected, after using these advanced devices.

Timely treatment of hearing loss not only ensures you hear better, but also lowers risk for serious health issues such as cognitive decline and dementia. Some other benefits of hearing aids can be a more positive outlook and more satisfying relationships. One can experience reduced anxiety and increased confidence in public situations.

BENEFITS OF WEARING HEARING AIDS MAY INCLUDE

- Reduced mental fatigue,
- Decreased feelings of isolation & depression
- Improved ability to do several things at once
- Improved memory, attention and focus
- Improved communication skills
- Enjoying life

On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturhi, Shreya Hearing is offering additional two year free warranty to Senior Citizens. This offer is valid from 20th to 27th August 2025

For more details, contact-
Bangalore Clinics
Indiranagar
Tel: 25214746 / 47 /48
Mob: 9686449426
Sadashivanagar
Tel: 23618037 / 38 / 39
Mob: 9686449382
Jayanagar
Tel: 26533055 /56 / 57
Mob: 9686449375 / 9686449378
Vijayanagar
TeL: 23180011 / 12
Mob: 9900044214
Koramangala
Tel: 25634411 / 12 / 13
Mob: 9108508916
Kammanahalli
Tel: 25455078 / 79
Mob: 9686449385
Bannerghatta Rd
Tel: 26486033 / 34,
Mob: 9686449370
Marathalli / Bellandur
Tel: 28441062 /63,
Mob: 9686449392
Home Visit
Mob: 9945633115
(This number is common to all cities)
Toll free number: 1800 425 3435

Cylinder blast toll rises to 3; trauma lingers in Wilson Garden

Young mother dies shortly after eight-year-old daughter declared dead

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The death toll in the suspected cylinder blast at Wilson Garden has risen to three.

Kasthuri (32), in whose house the blast occurred on Independence Day, died on August 18 along with her daughter Khayal (8). Both had suffered 31% and 36% burns and were in the ICU at Victoria Hospital. Khayal died at 7 pm, and Kasthuri shortly after hearing the news.

Dr Yogishwarappa, Head of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Victoria Hospital, said the deaths were caused by inhalation of smoke and burning plastic.

As the ambulance arrived in the narrow lanes of Chinnayanapalya, neighbours wept, recalling memories of the mother and daughter.

Neighbours gather to get a last glimpse of Khayal and Kasthuri. DH PHOTO/AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR

Mary, a friend who cared for them in hospital, said: "They were nice people. All she wanted was her daughter to be educated and not struggle as she did."

Kasthuri worked as a maid in seven houses. Her husband Aiyappa, a daily wage labourer, was at work when the blast ripped through their home.

A neighbour, Johnson, said: "I spoke to Kasthuri on Saturday. She complained of pain. I assured her she would be okay and return home."

His daughter Arvil said: "Kasthuri always made sure her daughter had everything. She bought her new clothes, put her in tuition, and Khayal loved studying."

> **MARY,**
> **A family friend**
> "They were nice people. All she wanted was her daughter to be educated and not struggle as she did.

Teachers at Khayal's school, KJ Convent, remembered her as a bright student. She had been scheduled to perform in the Independence Day programme.

"She was very active and took part in all activities. Her mother was also supportive and was involved in school events," said Nandhini, the headmistress.

Neighbours said their lives remain unsettled. They want civic authorities to replace asbestos sheet roofs with safer options. Cracks have appeared in the walls, windows are shattered, and some families have shifted to relatives' homes.

Two more people were seriously injured, but are out of danger.

Sarasamma, 50, lost her right hand, while Subramani suffered a head injury when a wall fragment struck him.

Confirmation by cops

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed that three people died of injuries sustained in the blast.

He said the cylinder from the house had been traced and was suspected to have been recently refilled. The on-spot probe found it empty.

"We are questioning the gas agencies that supplied the cylinder. It appears to be a massive gas leakage, but we are verifying further," he said.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Vachana Shravana: Vachana Jyoti Balaga; Sahana International School, Andhrahalli Main Road; 9.15 am.

Youth Conference and State Youth Award presentation: Karnataka Yuva Sangha; Town Hall, JC Road; 10 am.

Discussion: 'Comprehensive Land Acquisition Policy, Positions for Balanced Development of Karnataka'; Karnataka Popular Thinkers and Cultural Voices Forum; Institute of Agricultural Engineers, Queen's Road; 10 am.

Devaraj Urs Award: CM Siddaramaiah to attend, chaired by Rizwan Arshad; Department of Backward Classes Welfare; Vidhana Soudha; 10.45 am.

'Chakora' Literary Forum: Lecture on 'Freedom Fighter Subhash Chandra Bose' by KE Radhakrishna; Karnataka Sahitya Academy; Government First Class College, KR Puram; 11 am.

Lecture: 'Biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose'; Deepa Residential High School for Blind Children, Anjananagar; 5 pm.

CULTURAL

Book launch: 'Puneeth–A Power Thriller' by Madan Patel; Rashtriya Lok Kala Parishad; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	26.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	2.6 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	86%
Sunset (Aug 20)	6:39 pm
Sunrise (Aug 21)	6:08 am
Moonrise	2:05 am
Moonset	3:34 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Dengue cases dip sharply in city

Prompt action by BBMP has contained cases

BENGALURU, DHNS

Dengue cases across Bengaluru have declined compared to last year's monsoon.

In July and August so far, the city reported 564 and 233 cases, respectively. In 2024, the numbers stood at 5,172 and 3,004, respectively.

Mahadevapura has recorded the highest cases this year with 798, while Dasarahalli reported the least with 15, data accessed by *DH* has revealed.

Despite heavy monsoon showers and poor waste management, the the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has managed to contain cases.

"We trained more than 10,000 pourakarmikas three months before the peak monsoon to clear mosquito breeding points and understand why it is important to eliminate them," a BBMP health official said.

A vendor sells mosquito nets in Jayanagar. DH FILE PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Karnataka reported 15,282 dengue cases and 20 deaths in 2024, the third highest in the country. In 2023, the state recorded 11,136 cases and 11 deaths.

Mosquitoes usually breed in clean stagnant water around human settlements.

Special Health Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishore said the last two years saw an unusual spike. "We sprayed repellents in crowded areas and larvicides in potential breeding spots. We took necessary measures, and residents responded well," he said.

The BBMP also hired over 700 volunteers for 100 days, paying Rs 400 per day, to spread awareness and eliminate breeding grounds. Schools across the city were covered under the awareness programme. "Both teachers and students were trained on identifying larvae and eliminating them," the official added.

In the last week, the BBMP issued 64 notices to establishments and construction sites for poor hygiene that led to mosquito breeding.

Workshop on psychological first response

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Department of Mental Health Education at Nimhans will conduct a one-day workshop on August 30 to train the public in handling psychological emergencies.

Titled 'Immediate Care for Psychological Events and Emergencies', the programme will help participants identify early warning signs of mental health disorders and offer immediate, empathetic support.

Nimhans has designed the workshop for people from all backgrounds, including those without training in behavioural sciences.

The fee is Rs 500, and registrations close on August 28.

For details, email mheducation.nimhans@gmail.com or call 080-26995156.

Janaagraha study finds gaps in Greater Bengaluru Act

BENGALURU, DHNS

An analysis by not-for-profit trust Janaagraha has found major gaps in the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Act, rating it 3.4 out of 10.

The trust said that while the Act is an improvement over the BBMP Act, 2020, it still falls short of the reforms Bengaluru urgently needs.

Janaagraha conducted a clause-by-clause study using its city-systems framework. It compared the GBG Act with the Brand Bengaluru Committee's (BBC) GBG Bill, the BBMP Act, 2020, and the KMC Act, 1976.

"The analysis across 33 parameters revealed that the GBG Act scored just 3.40 out of 10, barely half as effective as the BBC-GBG Bill. The Act makes some advances in municipal finance and staffing, but fails on planning, empowered political leadership, and citizen participation," the study noted.

To address the gaps, Janaagraha suggested a roadmap that includes establishing city corporations, completing ward delimitation and reservations, and holding elections by March 2026.

It recommended notifying detailed rules within six months, with public consultation, for key provisions such as mayoral elections, ward committee functioning, budget preparation, accounts, and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee.

The study also called for a full-term Mayor-in-Council system, empowered ward committees with funds and planning powers, mandatory area sabhas for neighbourhood-level engagement, financial and administrative autonomy for city corporations, and transparency through open data standards, audits, and live-streamed meetings.

Ramya harassment case: Two more arrested by CCB

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two more people have been arrested for allegedly harassing and abusing Kannada actor Ramya alias Divya Spandana.

Ramya

The suspects are Adarsha and Sanjay, both residents of Udupi.

The police are investigating which social media handles of the duo were used to send abusive messages to Ramya.

With this, the arrests in this case are nine.

Ramya, a former MP, had filed a complaint on July 28 with Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh.

She alleged that she was trolled and vulgar comments were being posted against her on social media after she posted about the Supreme Court proceedings in the Renukaswmay murder case, in which actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is an accused.

The commissioner handed over the case to the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police for a probe.

Palike chief directs speedy road, infrastructure works in Yelahanka

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid opposition to building roads in the buffer zone of storm water drains (SWD), BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao on Tuesday ordered officials to expedite work from Jakkur Road to the National Highway in Yelahanka.

BBMP Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspects a road at Yelahanka. DH PHOTO

Though the project is yet to start, Rao instructed the road work begin immediately and finish swiftly.

Reviewing projects in Yelahanka, he said the area is an important corridor to the international airport and asked officials to develop alternative link roads.

He also directed them to complete white-topping works on time. "A 2.5-km stretch of white-topping road is under construction on Raitha Santhe Road in Jakkur. Of this, 500 metres are done," the BBMP said in a statement.

Rao also asked officials to finish the railway overbridge near Jakkur at the earliest. He directed them to revive an old kalyani near the Raitha Santhe, and clear garbage dumped along the roadside.

RTO officer booked for sexual harassment

BENGALURU, DHNS: A woman employee has accused an Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) at the Nelamangala RTO of sexually harassing her multiple times.

The Madanayakanahalli police registered an FIR on August 18 against ARTO Rajkumar under Section 75 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The complainant, a 48-year-old motor vehicle inspector, alleged that Rajkumar stared at her inappropriately. She said he once asked her to "come to an adjustment and get the needed posting", the FIR noted.

On August 18, Rajkumar called her to his chamber and allegedly asked her to remove a jacket she wore over her uniform. The woman told the police he refused her offer to remove it in her room and return.

'A misunderstanding'

In a video statement to the media, Rajkumar dismissed the allegations as a misunderstanding.

"I did not ask her to remove the jacket. My intention was only to have them show respect to their uniform. The government has given them an uniform to wear and to do their duty. I only told her that it did not look appropriate," he said.

The police have launched a probe.

BBMP holds workshop on pothole repairs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) organised a pothole repair workshop for its engineers on Tuesday at Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall.

Maheshwar Rao

B B M P Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao stressed the need for regular pothole-filling across the city.

"Each zone should now implement planned actions to repair potholes swiftly. Jet patcher machines must be used where necessary. Cold mix and Ecofix materials should be used during the rains," he said.

On why the workshop was held during the monsoon, Rao told *DH*: "Better late than never. We are trying new methods along with the older ones, and hopefully, they will work better. The end goal is to make sure the city functions efficiently and looks good. Workshops and cleanliness drives are all aimed at that."

The training included a demonstration of the Standard Operating Procedure for repairs, covering six steps: cutting pothole corners, cleaning debris, spraying, applying tack coat, filling with bitumen, and finishing with rolling.

Zonal commissioners, joint commissioners, and chief engineers have been instructed to inspect pothole repair sites.

Weekly work schedule

BBMP boss Maheshwar Rao also directed officials to prepare a zone-wise weekly schedule for ward-level cleanliness drives.

This includes early morning cleaning of footpaths, garbage, and construction debris using silt removal equipment and tractors.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY — **OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 17/SBC/25 of 11.08.2025 Through E-tendering**

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Sl.No.	Description of work	Approx. Value
1.	**Sub Work I**: Bengaluru Dharmavarm section: Through Turnout Renewal of existing curved switch, CMS crossing, PSC sleepers with 60 kg TWS, 60 kg weldable CMS crossing and 60 kg PSC fan shaped layout (1in12 - 34 numbers and 1in8.5 - 4 numbers) Total 38 numbers in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Hindupur section. **Sub Work II**: Bengaluru - Sampige Road section: Through Turnout Renewal of existing curved switch, CMS crossing and PSC sleepers with 60kg TWS and 60kg weldable CMS crossing and 60kg PSC fan shaped layout - 1in12 - Total 24 numbers. **Sub Work III**: Bengaluru - Sampige Road section: Shifting of points 63/A and 63/B with cross over with increase in length of 250m for Road-1 at Hirehalli Yard	2,85,83,665
2.	Bengaluru - Dharmavaram section: **Sub Work I**: Construction of Type II quarters (8 units) at Gauribidanur (GBD) station, including electrical portion. **Sub Work II**: Construction of Type - II quarters (4 units) at Sri Satya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam (SSPN) station, including electrical portion (Composite Tender). Maintenance period is 12 months.	3,45,30,153
3.	Yesvanthpur section: Provision of stores for Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Yesvanthpur in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvanthpur sub-division including Electrical portion (Composite tender). Maintenance period is 12 months	94,99,463
4.	Chikkabanavara - Hassan section: **Sub Work I**: Slope stabilization by widening of slope and wire netting from km 159/020-420 b/w Shantigrama (SIGA) Hassan (HAS) stations in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Channarayapattana sub-division. **Sub Work II** : Slope stabilization by widening of slope and wire netting from km 159/440-159/840 in approach of Shantigrama (SIGA) station. **Sub Work III**: Slope stabilization by wire netting from km 148/450- 800 b/w D-Samudravalli (DSVS) Shantigrama (SIGA) stations in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Channarayapattana section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later (Two- packet tender)	19,79,91,754
5.	Chikkabanavara - Hassan section: **Sub Work I**: Slope stabilization by widening of slopes of cuttings from km 145/100-146/300 between D-Samudravalli (DSVS) Shantigrama (SIGA) stations in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/Channarayapattana section. - **Sub Work II**: Slope stabilization by widening of slopes of cuttings from km 130/800-132/200, 136/200-900 and 143/600- 144/600 between Shravanabelagola (SBGA)-Shantigrama (SIGA) stations in Senior Section Engineer/ PWAY/Channarayapattana section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later	16,50,18,119
6.	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru section: Proposed FOB at Sivadi (SZV) station of Salem-Bangalore section. Maintenance period is 12 months.	2,43,23,005
7.	Bengaluru - Salem section: Construction of Type - II quarters (5 units) at Palakkodu (PCV) station under Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri sub- division including Electrical portions (Composite tender). Maintenance period is 12 months	1,45,02,663
8.	Bengaluru-Salem section: Supply of drinking water to Railway station, Staff quarters, LC gates and Trackmen rest rooms between Omalur - Lottegollahalli stations for a period of one year.	51,05,198
9.	Chikka Banavara Hassan section: Re-profiling and protection of slope by providing turfing at km 39/100- 41/400. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later	2,28,28,305
10.	Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru Sec: Manufacturing, supply and stacking of machine crushed track ballast at PRNT depot (Periya Nagathunnai) (33,000 cum) including loading, in connection with the work of Bengaluru-Salem Section : Complete Track Renewal (P) of existing 52kg rails on 52 kg PSC of 1540 nos/km with 60kg/90 UTS rails and 60kg wider base sleeper of 1660/km for a length of 22.0 km from km 23/000-45/000 (SL) in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri Section	2,87,37,060
11.	KSR Bengaluru: **Sub Work I**: Construction of Transit accommodation (Type-III quarters) 8 units (Stilt + GF+3) at KSR Bengaluru. **Sub Work II**: KSR Bengaluru: Proposed improvements to existing Railway Hospital at KSR Bengaluru, including electrical portion. Maintenance period is 12 months. (Composite Work)	3,82,80,362
12.	**Sub Work I**: KSR Bengaluru (SBC): Improvements to Type - III quarters No. 190/A-L, 191/A-L, 189/A-L, 188/A-J, 187/A-D (50 Units) at MG colony/KSR Bengaluru (SBC). **Sub Work II**: KSR Bengaluru: SBC Divisional office: Proposed modification of control rooms of TPC/TRD and server room of TPC and EEM/TRD. Maintenance period is 6 months. COMPOSITE TENDER.	2,40,18,244

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 15.00 hrs on 02.09.2025**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination/ Benguluru

PUB/390/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS Moblie App** from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

HISS & MISS

Snake rescuers struggle as govt recognition eludes them

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Snake rescuers in Karnataka struggle without government recognition or support, leaving them to work without basic facilities.

Rescuers have urged the state to issue ID cards to validate their work. They said that FIRs are often filed against them after rescues for possessing wild animals.

"Without valid ID cards, we are unable to prove ourselves as legitimate and professional rescuers," said Shivaraj alias Snake Shivu, a snake rescuer for 16 years in Mysuru.

Members of the Wildlife Conservation Welfare Association staged a protest at Freedom Park on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

"We are helping both wildlife and people and we get nothing in return... we are endangering our lives in the process, but people hardly pay us, and the government does not pay any attention to us," he added.

Snake rescuers receive no equipment from the government.

"If we have to provide service to people for free, the government has to pay us something to at least cover our travel expenses," said Nazeer, a rescuer from Dharwad.

Rescuers complained that several viral videos of people performing stunts as snake handlers have made the government suspicious of everyone.

No insurance provider covers snake rescuers, citing the high-risk nature of their work.

The government has not offered them any healthcare benefits either.

"If anybody in our profession is bitten by a snake, our only option is to ask people to donate money for treatment," said Das, a snake rescuer in Bengaluru.

Snakebites kill some people, while others are left disabled for life.

Stressing the need for health insurance, the rescuers said that many in their community had died for want of better treatment, as only anti-venom injections are available at healthcare centers.

Tuesday's protest

Meanwhile, the rescuers held a protest at Freedom Park on Tuesday, urging the government to issue ID cards to validate their work.

Oppn forces govt to tweak Bill on building plans

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government was forced Tuesday to tweak a Bill that empowered commissioners or chief officers to decide on building plan sanctions in municipalities. The Karnataka Municipalities and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Bill sought to replace "municipal council" with "municipal commissioner or chief officer" to decide on building plan sanctions. BJP lawmakers opposed the move, arguing that this would curtail powers of elected representatives.

Urban Development Minister B S Suresha (Byrathi) defended the Bill, saying citizens were suffering due to delays in building plan sanctions. Municipal council meetings don't happen for months. That's why commissioners are being given the power to approve plans, he said. "Commissioners will have 30 days to approve, failing which it will be deemed approved," he said.

BJP's V Sunil Kumar, C C Patil, Harish Poonja and others disagreed with Suresha. "The Kundapur municipal council meets every month," Kumar said. "This House can't pass a Bill that will cut powers of elected representatives," Patil said.

Under pressure from the Opposition, Municipalities Minister Rahim Khan announced that municipal councils would be asked to sanction building plans in 30 days. The Bill was passed.

When Khan rose to explain the Bill, he was being prompted by Urban Development Minister B S Suresha. This irked the Opposition.

BJP's Suresh Kumar likened this to cult hit movie *Padosan* in which Sunil Dutt lip-syncs to Kishore Kumar's voice.

"Here, Suresha is Kishore Kumar and Khan is Sunil Dutt," Suresh Kumar quipped. Speaker U T Khader said: "So what? *Padosan* was a hit film. Even this duo (Suresha-Khan) will be a hit."

'Horticulture varsity not to be shut or merged'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy assured the Council that the government would not shut down or merge the Bagalkot Horticulture University.

The debate was triggered by reports of recommendations reportedly made by the committee headed by retired chief secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar that agriculture & horticulture varsities be merged. "The panel will submit report after session. Only then will we discuss it. For now, it will neither be shut nor merged," he said.

Akrama-Sakrama 2.0? Assembly passes Bill to regularise illegal buildings

Threshold for plan violations being raised from 5% to 15%

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed a Bill that will allow municipal commissioners to regularise unlawful buildings by levying a penalty, skirting close to the Akrama-Sakrama scheme that is pending adjudication in the Supreme Court.

The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill also exempts small properties from requiring commencement certificates (CC) and occupancy certificates (OC), which the government said will help the poor and the middle-class.

Piloting the Bill, Urban Development Minister B S Suresha (Byrathi) said the amendments will apply to only such unlawful buildings that can be regularised as per the provisions of the building byelaws or any Act in force. This will not apply to buildings that have been ordered for demolition.

Under the Bill, municipal commissioners can issue OCs to citizens by levying a penalty on them if they had not obtained CCs at the time of starting construction.

Similarly, a penalty can be levied "up to the extent or deviation in the construction with respect to sanctioned plan or zonal regulation limit as may be specified in the byelaws". Suresha told the Assembly that the threshold for building plan violations is being raised from 5% to 15%.

In January 2017, the Supreme Court stayed the Akrama-Sakrama scheme that sought to regularise unauthorised urban buildings for a fee. "We cannot frame rules (for Akrama-Sakrama) as the matter is pending before the Supreme Court. But we can regularise small sites. We will specify the size in the rules, but it'll be mostly 20x30 and 30x40 sites. We're exempting them from requiring CC and OC. This will help the poor and middle-class," Suresha said.

Suresha, however, clarified that this is not the same Akrama-Sakrama scheme that is pending before the Supreme Court. "Unlicensed properties are not being exempted from the CC/OC requirement," he said.

The Bill also allows municipal corporations to rope in professional architects, engineers and town planners as 'authorised persons' to inspect buildings before, during and after construction, certify them and sanction building plans.

"Empanelled engineers will be allowed to approve building plans up to 4,000 sq ft," Suresha said.

Bill passed to benefit 4 lakh gig workers

Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill also passed

BENGALURU, DHNS

Labour Minister Santosh Lad makes a point during the legislature session on Tuesday.

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, which Labour Minister Santosh Lad said would benefit four lakh people.

The Bill will replace an ordinance the government had promulgated in May.

The Bill provides social security measures for gig workers in ride-sharing services, food and grocery delivery services, logistics services, e-marketplace, healthcare, travel and hospitality and content and media services.

"The information we have is that there are four lakh gig workers in Karnataka. According to a report of the Niti Aayog, the gig economy will have 23.5 million workers by 2029-30," Lad said, piloting the Bill.

Lad said similar laws had been enacted in Spain, Singapore, Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Two-wheelers are the most exposed to pollution. To earn Rs 1,800, one has to work 16 hours a day. That's the system we're in," Lad said.

The Bill proposes to create a Karnataka Gig Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund. A welfare fee of 1% to 5% of the payout to the platform-based gig worker in each transaction will be levied.

"This welfare cess will not be uniform. In the rules, we will specify the rate depending on the type of gig business," Lad said.

A Gig Workers Welfare Board will be created to ensure registration of gig workers, aggregators, set up a monitoring mechanism and implementation of social security schemes.

"Special health cards will be provided to gig workers once funds start flowing in so that they get access to quality healthcare," the minister said.

Senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar urged Lad to bring 3.8 lakh outsourced government staff under this Bill. The minister, however, said that cannot be done. "We're forming district-level cooperative societies comprising outsources employees to safeguard their interests," he said.

Jayanagar BJP MLA C K Ramamurthy said the government should ensure Kannadiga gig workers benefit more.

When BJP's Dheeraj Muniraju asked Lad if the government can cap the maximum number of work hours, the minister said: "These are flexi hours. You can work as much as you want. You can even reject work."

Souharda Bill passed

The Assembly also passed the Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill. The Bill mandates Souharda cooperatives to set aside 20% of their total deposits at the end of every quarter to maintain a 'Statutory Liquid Reserve'.

Pending power connections: DKS hints at policy move

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy CM D K Shivakumar told the Assembly that the government was considering a policy intervention to help citizens who constructed homes illegally and were unable to obtain power & water connections due to a Supreme Court ruling.

Responding to a calling-attention motion, he said the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on ensuring compliance with the SC order that buildings without plan sanction and occupancy certificate should not be given power and water connections.

"The government is firm. We won't allow illegal constructions. But some poor people built homes even before (SC order)," he said.

"We are thinking of relaxing setbacks within the law or providing exemptions. Approvals for single plots & small areas, we are coming up with this in next Cabinet meeting," he said.

Umashree urges govt to address shortage of PhD guides at UoM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former minister and Congress MLC Umashree on Tuesday drew attention to the shortage of PhD guides at the University of Mysore (UoM), and urged the government to address the problem.

Responding to his party colleague, Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar assured the Council that the government was compiling a list of professors at the varsity's many constituent colleges who are eligible to guide PhD candidates. "The guidelines laid down by University Grants Commission in 2018 stipulate that a professor can guide a maximum of eight doctoral candidates, leaving several PhD scholars without guides," he said.

The government will take necessary steps to address the shortage of guides, said Sudhakar, urging PhD scholars taking more than five to six years, to complete their research at the earliest. "We will apprise students of the need to complete their research through varsity syndicate," he said.

GBA won't control city corpns: DKS

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar speaks during the monsoon session of the state Assembly, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar assured the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will not interfere with the functioning of the five new municipal corporations that will be created to run the city.

Shivakumar said this while piloting the Greater Bengaluru Governance (Amendment) Bill, which was passed in the Assembly amid concerns expressed by the Opposition BJP that the GBA, headed by the chief minister, would centralise power.

"We are making a small amendment to provide clarity that the GBA will not interfere with the city corporations," Shivakumar, also the Bengaluru city development minister, said.

"Someone has filed a public interest litigation (PIL) with an objection that the government is taking corporations under its control. We don't want to take corporations under control. We're making it clear so that there's no confusion," he added.

The BJP was not convinced by Shivakumar's explanation. "Tell us how you had planned on controlling the corporations," former deputy chief minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan asked. Narayan slammed the government over the GBA. "This will be parallel to the Metropolitan Planning Committee. There is no provision for a GBA-like body under the Constitution. This Act will interfere with local bodies," he argued.

Dasarahalli MLA S Muniraju said the government, besides "breaking" Bengaluru into five, has also divided assembly constituencies. "Half of my constituency will come under Bengaluru North Corporation and the other half under the Bengaluru West Corporation. Whom should I go to for work?" he said.

The only supportive voice from the Opposition came from expelled BJP MLA ST Somashekhar. "Creating five corporations for Bengaluru is a historic decision," the Yeshwanthpur MLA said.

Shivajinagar Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad clarified that the GBA will only coordinate among the corporations. "The tax each corporation collects will be its own," he said.

New areas under GBA after polls

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said new areas will be added to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) jurisdiction after elections for the five new city corporations.

He was responding to demands by the MLAs to add outlying villages.

"If we include villages, then panchayat members will become councillors. Let's finish the election first. Then, we'll sit with you and decide on including new areas," Shivakumar said.

School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal
(An Institution of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
Phone - 0755-2526819, 2526821, 2526822

No.SPAB/RGO/Advt./2025-26/09 Date: 20/08/2025

SPECIAL ROUND-2 FOR ADMISSION OF POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES UNDER RESERVED CATEGORIES AT SPA BHOPAL

Applications are invited for the vacant seats under reserved categories for Post Graduate degree Programmes at School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Bhopal for the Academic Session 2025-26 under the Special Round-2. Please visit the Institute website spabhopal.ac.in for more details. The last date for submission of online application form is 21st August, 2025.

Registrar

TONTADARYA COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, GADAG
Affiliated to VTU, Belagavi and Approved by AICTE, New Delhi, Accredited by NBA (CSE, ECE, CV, EEE) and NAAC (B)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed / Online tenders are invited from reputed and experienced suppliers, manufacturers, or authorized distributors for the supply, installation, and commissioning of equipment, tools, and consumable items for establishing an AICTE-IDEA Lab at our institution. The last date for Tender submission is 26-08-2025.

Tender details and specifications are available on the college website: www.tce.ac.in

Sd/- Principal

AMITY UNIVERSITY BENGALURU

LAW

PROGRAMMES OFFERED
• B.A., LL.B (H)
• LL.M

Distinguished faculty that includes eminent judges, jurists and policy makers

Regular visits to Courts, Lok Adalats, Tribunals and Central Jails for practical exposure

Dedicated law library with Supreme Court case finders, legal textbooks, journals and online resources for all-round referrals; and a well-appointed Moot Court for honing practising skills

Industry integrated Corporate Resource Centre for developing customised career pathways including training & internships

Value-added courses such as foreign languages to enhance employability skills

To apply scan or visit:
amity.edu/bengaluru
by: 27th August, 2025
7303-399-000

• Lateral entry also offered
• Bus service available from various key locations
• AC hostel facility available

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

PROG LEVEL	Agg%	SCH 100%	SCH 50%	SCH 25%
UG	12th	95	90	85
PG (Non-MBA)	12th	95	90	-
	UG	80	75	-

Check website for details

NH 648 (Old NH 207), Devanahalli–Doddaballapur Road, Bengaluru | E: admissions.blr@amity.edu

Eye donations up, but don't meet demand

National Eye Donation Fortnight begins on August 25. Metrolife takes stock of donations in Bengaluru

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Though eye donations in Bengaluru have gradually increased, they fall far short of demand, doctors say. Lack of awareness about the retrieval procedure, myths about death and the afterlife, fears of disfigurement or bleeding, and emotional reluctance often deter families from pledging.

Doctors note that a single cornea can benefit at least two people suffering from corneal blindness, with transplant success rates as high as 80%. Recipients often include newborns with corneal scratches, schoolchildren injured in the eye, road accident victims, and farmers who suffer from fungal infections during harvesting season.

At Dr Rajkumar Eye Bank, run by Narayana Nethralaya in Rajajinagar, about 50 pairs of eyes are donated each month, but the waitlist averages 100 patients. "We register 5-10 new patients daily for corneal transplants but can perform only 3-4 surgeries," says manager Veeresh M P M. He clarifies that about 70% of corneas are suitable for transplant. Donations from people with HIV, hepatitis B, liver cirrhosis, head and neck cancer, or dog-bite injuries can get rejected after testing.

Two pairs of eyes were donated at Dr Rajkumar Eye Bank, Rajajinagar, on Tuesday. They get most requests for corneal transplants for infants and school children.

The Lions International Eye Bank near Lalbagh receives around 3,000 donations annually, of which 75% are used, yet it faces a monthly waitlist of about 50 patients. "Only 4% of pledges translate into donations," says Dr Rekha Gyanchand, corneal consultant and medical director.

Corneas are allotted to patients by priority: emergencies can cover infections, accidental injuries, and bilateral blindness; urgent cases typically involve children and young adults; and routine cases often concern elderly patients losing vision in one eye. "Most demand for corneal grafting comes from the urgent group," Dr Rekha says.

At Shraddha Eye Bank, part of Nethradhama Super Speciality Eye Hospital in Jayanagar, about 20 people are on the waitlist every month — a number that has risen steadily. "It may be due to better awareness that corneal blindness can be treated," says executive director Dr Sushmitha Sriganesh. Still, the gap is stark. "For every 10 people requiring a transplant, only one person donates," she says.

Dr Sowmyalatha M, cornea consultant at Dr M C Modi Eye Hospital in west Bengaluru, says they get 2-3 transplant cases a month, mostly patients over 50 from rural backgrounds. The hospital currently has a waitlist of more than 10.

Dr Hareesh K V, medical director, Abhishek Nethradhama, Yelahanka New Town, has seen more enthusiasm about eye donation in rural areas than in Bengaluru, driven by word-of-mouth from beneficiaries. Their Eye Donation Motivation Centre, which mobilises social organisations to spread the word, has collected about 60 pairs of eyes in the past five years.

70% donors in Karnataka from B'luru

According to M K Krishna, former chairperson of the Eye Bank Association of India (South Zone), Karnataka has risen from 8th place in 2013-2014 to 3rd in 2024-2025, recording about 5,300 donations during this period. "Nearly 70% of Karnataka's eye donations come from Bengaluru," he says.

Who can donate?

According to Dr Rekha Gyanchand, anybody between the ages of 2 and 100 can donate, including those who have undergone cataract or laser correction surgery. Typically, only the corneal tissue is harvested and is used fully or partially depending on the case. If the entire eyeball is removed, it is replaced with a prosthetic. Eye donation is free of cost. It must be done within 6-8 hours of a person's death, and transplanted within 14 days.

To pledge/enquire, contact
- 97405 56666 (Lions International Eye Bank)
- 97416 85555/88840 18800 (Dr Rajkumar Eye Bank)
- 97310 81808 (Shraddha Eye Bank)

Death literacy fest this weekend

The event will cover topics like palliative care, rituals, writing a will, and planning for one's last days

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A two-day festival scheduled for this weekend will focus on the different aspects of death — from preparation and planning to bereavement, mourning and rituals. Titled 'Good to go — Death literacy festival', it is organised by Pallium India, an NGO that aims to integrate palliative care and pain relief with health systems; and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, a think-tank that works on policy reforms and legal research.

Smriti Rana has been associated with the field of palliative care for close to 25 years and heads the WHO Collaborating Centre for Training and Policy on Access to Pain Relief. "I have dealt with numerous deaths in my family and that is how I got into palliative care. The problem is that, as a society, we do not have conversations about death. And we thought this festival is a great platform to create a space where one could talk about the subject comfortably," says Smriti, the festival director.

Smriti Rana

The event will feature panel discussions, workshops, film screenings, musical performances and interactive installations.

One of the major themes of the festival is 'advance care planning' — preparing for the end of life while one is still able to. Smriti describes it as an umbrella phrase. "It is a medium through which one can make choices about how they would like decisions to be made regarding their treatment and life when they are not in a position to make the decisions themselves," she explains. Choices like DNR (do not resuscitate), organ donation, and writing a living will come under advance care planning.

Films like 'Karwaan' and 'The Sky is Pink', which deal with the subject of death, will be screened at the festival.

Misunderstood concept

"Some of us came together in February 2023 to form the Advance Care Planning Collective. This group has members from the fields of medicine, law, public health, palliative care and people with lived experiences of being caregivers," she says, adding, "Many concepts within this area are misunderstood. People confuse "dignity in death" with euthanasia. But there is a lot more to it". As a collective, their long-term plan is to work on policy reform and legislation, and to engage meaningfully with the public.

Some of the other highlights include a panel discussion on the topic 'What does dying in India look like and what needs to change?', and workshops on writing a living will, organ donation and dealing with the death of pets.

Interactive installations

The 'wind telephone' installation is inspired by a Japanese concept. In a town in Japan, a man set up a telephone booth in his garden to talk to his cousin who died from cancer in 2010. The phone was not connected to anything, but served as a way for him to come to terms with his grief. In 2011, after an earthquake and resulting tsunami killed close to 20,000 people, the man allowed the public to use the phone. It drew thousands of callers desperate to talk to loved ones they had lost. A similar booth will be set up for participants at the festival.

August 23 (4 pm onwards) and August 24 (10.30 am onwards), at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. For details, look up @goodtogo_deathliteracy on Instagram.

How to prevent LPG accidents at home

Experts outline checks, precautions, and emergency responses to prevent cylinder leaks and fires

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

The suspected LPG cylinder blast in Chinnayanpalya, Wilson Garden, which killed three people last week, has renewed concerns about household safety. *Metrolife* spoke to fire safety experts on precautions to detect warning signs, prevent leaks, and tackle small fires.

Pre-delivery inspection

Disaster response specialist P R S Chetan says one must first check the cylinder's company seal and safety cap, followed by the test date and the 'due for test' date stamped on it. "Insist on a pre-delivery inspection (PDI), which distributors are required to carry out at your doorstep," he adds.

Conduct a simple leak test before accepting cylinders, says Subhash Kumar, director of 3S Life Safe Akademie, a fire and safety training institute. "Pour soapy water near the regulator fitting. If bubbles form, it indicates leakage," he explains. He cautions against buying from unauthorised vendors.

Cylinders must be kept upright on a flat, ventilated surface, says Chetan. He adds: use only ISI/BIS-approved regulators and hoses, replace rubber hoses every 2 years (specialised 'Suraksha' hoses every 5 years), store cylinders away from heat and wiring, and avoid keeping spares in the kitchen.

Experts suggest customers insist on a pre-delivery inspection (PDI).
DH FILE PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

In case of a leak

If you suspect a leak, stay calm and immediately extinguish all flames (stoves, lamps, incense), says Chetan. Kumar warns against operating electrical switches or appliances as they can spark an explosion. These include doorbells, torches and even smartphones. "Open all windows and doors for ventilation, leave the area immediately, and make emergency calls from outside," he says. If possible, move the cylinder outdoors to an open space. "If the situation worsens (the smell grows stronger, leads to fire, or causes dizziness), evacuate immediately and call the fire department or police," adds Chetan.

Fire and safety equipment trader B V Venkatesh says one can also instal gas leak detectors at home. Priced at Rs 1,000-2,500, these raise an alarm at the sign of leakage. He recommends keeping a fire extinguisher handy. "If a tube or knob leaks and a small fire starts, the cylinder won't explode immediately. A portable extinguisher can stop the fire from spreading," he explains.

24/7 emergency number
Helpline for gas leaks (All India): **1906**

POPCORN

Song parivar

A tahsildar in Maharashtra was suspended last week. For what crime, you ask? For singing while seated on his official chair. Prashant Thorat was transferred from Umri to Renapur, and his colleagues gathered to give him a send-off. Moved by the warmth, he belted out a Kishore Kumar favourite, 'Tera jaisa yaar kahan..." (Where do I find a friend like you?). His colleagues clapped along. Someone posted the scene on social media, and word reached his bosses. They ruled he had 'tarnished the image' of the administration. Looks like it's all in a day's work to insult and harass citizens and extort money from them, but singing? What an outrage! Doesn't he know he should act tough and arrogant to uphold the government's glorious image?

EVENTS

Play
Jagriti Theatre will stage Federico García Lorca's play 'The House of Bernarda Alba'. It is directed by Arundhati Raja and features actor Padmavati Rao, among others. It will be held on August 22, at 7.30 pm, August 23 and 24 at 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield. Tickets online.

Embroidery exhibition
Sameeksha School of Embroidery is holding a hand embroidery exhibition and sale from August 22 to 25, 11 am to 6 pm at their centre in Koramangala. Entry free.

CITY MIX

Dance, music carnival on August 21

Neela, a company that promotes Indian culture and performance art across borders, will host a 'cultural carnival' on Thursday at Kalagrama in Malathahalli. The event will be inaugurated by Shivaraj Tangadagi, minister, Kannada and culture department. He will be accompanied by writer and filmmaker Nagathihalli Chandrashekhar.

The evening will begin with a flamenco performance by dancer Archana Kumar, followed by a Bharatanatyam performance by Vidisha and her team. Other performances include dollu kunitha, contemporary dance, somana kunitha and Punjabi dhol.

At Kalagrama, Malathahalli, 5.30 pm. For details, WhatsApp 99458 88644.

City art collectives hit back at Adoor

The filmmaker's stance on state funding for Dalit and women directors has drawn criticism

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

Veteran filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan's comments against state funding for Dalit and women film directors at the Kerala film policy conclave has sparked outrage. He said that the government funding of Rs 1.5 crore for filmmakers from the SC/ST communities is "paving the way for corruption", also adding that filmmakers should be given "at least three months of intensive training to make films". He suggested the grant be reduced to Rs 50 lakh.

Metrolife spoke to city-based art collectives that support anti-caste work for their take on the filmmaker's comments.

'Some celebrated artistes are regressive'

Nisha Abdulla of Offstream said it's time "we take art from people like Gopalakrishnan and place it alongside their politics. We cannot remove their politics from their art."

Founded by Sri Vamsi Matta, Nisha and Padmalatha Ravi, the collective is an attempt to build a community around art that is rooted in anti-caste work and imagination. "We believe in the current context, artistes in such work should be in conversation with each other, because it is difficult to take on hegemonic institutions alone," added Nisha.

Offstream helps artistes with financial grants and mentorship, and conducts pre-funded workshops including filmmaking, visual aesthetic and direction fundamentals. Their other initiatives include translation of anti-caste literature and archiving anti-caste history.

Adavi Arts Collective's focus is parai attam, a Dalit art form.

'Reason we started an Ambedkarite collective'

Mahishaa of Neelavarana, an Ambedkarite artistes' forum dedicated to promoting Dalit-Bahujan artistes in Karnataka, said Gopalakrishnan's comments had strengthened his belief about why they began the collective. Focused mainly on filmmaking, films produced and presented by Neelavarana are stories of the Dalit-Bahujan communities told by filmmakers from the communities. 'Moda Moda', 'Area Bois', and 'Babasaheb in Bengaluru' are some such films.

Neelavarana also hosts workshops and sessions to bring perspectives of Dalit and women filmmakers to the forefront. They are also planning a workshop for Dalit and Bahujan women. "Even in the Dalit community, women are still oppressed. So we want to empower women from the community," Mahishaa shared.

'Very insensitive'

Lakshman K P, one of the founding members of Jangama Collective, said that despite being a great filmmaker, Gopalakrishnan's comments "perhaps reflect what he has been thinking over the years. It's appalling".

Jangama is an Ambedkarite collective of film and theatre artistes who believe in creating cultural and political awareness through art. "The presence of anti-caste politics within the art context is limited. There is noticeable silence about such issues including representation. So it was important to build this political consciousness through activism," added Lakshman.

Workshops are conducted for children and the collective is also trying to bring more awareness among Dalit youth. Jangama also has a film studio.

'Just like anti-reservation'

Adavi Arts Collective's focus is parai attam, a Dalit art form from Tamil Nadu. "Many artistes in the collective are also from the community. They want to tell stories from their perspective," said Naren, one of the founders, who believes Gopalakrishnan's comment was similar to anti-reservation remarks that marginalised communities often hear.

"Even now parai (percussion instrument) is played on the streets and is considered inauspicious because it is played during death. We want to bring them to city and contemporary spaces to spread awareness about the instrument and its history," he added.

Adavi was founded by a group of artistes who separated from a theatre group "due to restrictions on expressing anti-caste opinions".

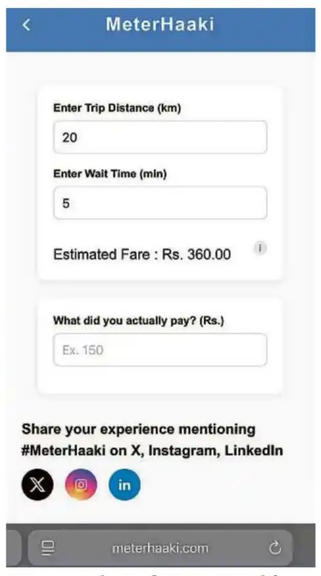
A website now helps you calculate auto metre fares

A frustrated commuter creates free tool to estimate government-approved auto fares in Bengaluru

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Frustrated by steep auto fares on most ride-hailing apps, city-based techie Anmol Sharma launched 'Meter Haaki', a website to help commuters calculate government-approved fares instantly.

"The idea came to me out of my own frustration. In June-end, I was looking for a ride to Yeshwantpur Railway Station after the bike taxi ban, and two major aggregators were charging around Rs 850, while another showed around Rs 350. The difference was huge and nowhere close to the government-approved fare. That's when I decided to build this tool," said Sharma, founder and CEO of Naviget app. He designed and launched the website in early August.



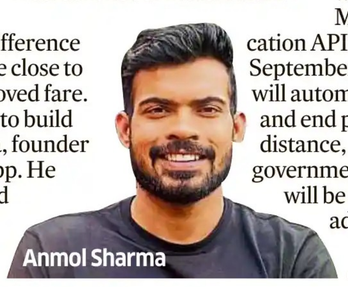
A screenshot of Meter Haaki.

Through Meter Haaki, Sharma hopes to make commuters aware of what they should rightfully be paying, and to call out aggregators for overcharging despite clear government directives. "Guidelines state that aggregators cannot charge more than 10% above the government fare. Yet, they continue to add extra fees and even tips before the ride begins," he pointed out.

How does it work?

The website is simple to use: users enter their travel distance and waiting time, and it calculates the "fair fare" as per Karnataka government guidelines. The tool also factors in night-time and waiting charges. "It took just one day to build. I wanted it to be quick, simple, and useful," Sharma said.

Building on the initial success, Sharma and his team are now working on a mobile application for the website, which will integrate Google Maps, Ola Maps, and location APIs. It is set to launch by September first week. "The app will automatically detect start and end points, calculate the distance, and display the exact government-approved fare. It will be free to download," he added.


Anmol Sharma

Visit meterhaaki.com

Cops seize drugs worth Rs 5.5 cr; arrest 3 foreign nationals

Special team probing to identify the source, says city police commissioner

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major drive against narcotics, the Bengaluru police arrested seven people, including three foreigners, and recovered banned MDMA worth over Rs 5.5 crore.

In the first case, the Electronics City police arrested Joel Kabong, 28, an MBA dropout from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and his associate and fellow African Joy Sunday, 22, a BA graduate.

From them, the police seized MDMA crystals worth Rs 5 crore. The probe revealed Kabong came to Bengaluru in 2013 on a student visa and overstayed.

Investigations showed that Kabong procured contraband from Joy and sold it to customers, including college students. Based on his interrogation, Joy was arrested near Doddathoguru Cross.

The police said that Joy, a resident of Vidyaranyapura, confessed to supplying drugs and revealed she procured them from another foreign national. A search is on for her associate.

In the second case, Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested another foreign national, whose identity was not disclosed. Also said to be an African, he had arrived in Delhi in 2024, started a clothing business, and entered Bengaluru a year later.

The probe revealed that he bought MDMA at a lower price from another foreigner and sold it in the city after his business failed. The police seized 255 grams of MDMA worth Rs 40 lakh from him.

In the third case, the Sampigehalli and Yelahanka police arrested four people for peddling MDMA. From them, 147 grams of contraband worth Rs 18.40 lakh was recovered.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said a special team is probing the cases to identify the source.

"I have instructed senior officers to follow all the leads. I appeal to the public and educational institutions to inform us if you have information on drug use or smuggling. The identity will be kept confidential."

The seized contraband displayed at the Bengaluru police commissioner's office on Tuesday. PHOTO: BENGALURU CITY POLICE

Man arrested for drug peddling; 48 stolen phones seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Koramangala police have arrested a man absconding in a drugs case and seized 48 stolen mobile phones worth Rs 16 lakh from his possession.

The suspect, Tousif, was caught on July 26 at Gorigepalya. He was wanted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act in a case registered at the Koramangala police station.

On July 3, the police raided a hotel in Koramangala, arrested four people, and seized 12.62 grams of MDMA. Tousif escaped, but was later traced.

During interrogation, he confessed to peddling drugs and admitted the seized phones were stolen. He said he had received them from others.

Tousif has been produced in court and remanded to judicial custody. The police are working to trace the owners of the phones.

Consumers urged to stop using mercury-based medical devices

BENGALURU, DHNS: Consumer groups and health experts have urged citizens to stop using mercury-based thermometers and BP machines, citing grave health risks.

Once spilled, mercury evaporates, contaminating the air and damaging the nervous, respiratory and, in severe cases, kidney systems.

The issue was discussed at a panel organised by Consumer Voice and the Foundation for Sustainable Health (FSH), a non-profit organisation.

"Big hospitals are managing their waste, but domestic usage and disposal of these machines need attention. It is a serious health hazard," said Nilanjana Bose of Consumer Voice.

Exposure to pregnant or lactating women poses severe risks to both mother and child, experts warned.

The World Health Organization lists mercury among the top 10 chemicals of major public concern. "We all know it is toxic. Why wait for a disaster to happen? We want people to look for safer alternatives," said J Chander, CEO of FSH.

Sewage main cause for low oxygen in lakes: KSPCB

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has reiterated that the entry of sewage is the primary cause of pollution of lakes in the city.

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), while hearing a suo motu case, noted that more than 10% of the city's 117 lakes recorded anoxic (very low/absent dissolved oxygen) conditions.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) was below detectable levels (less than 0.3 mg/litre) in 12 lakes, including Madiwala, Herohalli, Karihobanahalli, Dasarahalli, Varthur, Uttarahalli, Dorekere, Devarabeesanahalli, Rampura, Kammasandra, Chandapura and Hosakerehalli, as well as in the Dakshina Pinakini river.

Continuous monitoring by the board since April 2024 showed variations in the DO levels depending on seasonal, hydrological and environmental factors. Low DO is detrimental to aquatic life, further degrading lake ecosystems.

Hosakerehalli Lake. DH FILE PHOTO

Except at Varthur, where water has been diverted for rejuvenation, sewage inflow and decay of organic matter were found to be the main causes of low DO.

"The board submits that the low DO levels recorded in the identified lakes and the Dakshina Pinakini river are primarily attributable to the inflow of untreated sewage," it said.

To address the issue, the KSPCB proposed providing 100% underground drainage in catchment areas, working with stakeholder agencies for post-restoration water quality monitoring, and enforcing strict compliance with sewage treatment plant norms.

Maid arrested for Rs 22-lakh jewellery theft from doctors' house

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Siddapura police have arrested a maid and her brother-in-law for stealing gold, diamond, and silver jewellery from a doctor couple's residence in Jayanagar 1st Block.

The doctors lodged a complaint on July 31. They had employed the maid, Anna Reddy Durga, 35, from Andhra Pradesh, for over a year.

On July 28, the doctors returned from work and found the maid missing. Her phone was switched off. On checking, they discovered jewellery and valuables missing and approached the police.

Investigators traced Anna to her sister's house in New Rangapur village, Telangana, on August 3. They arrested her and seized part of the stolen ornaments. During questioning, she confessed and admitted to selling a diamond ring through her sister's husband, Santhani Venkateswara Rao, 61.

The police arrested Rao on August 4. He revealed selling the diamond ring at a jewellery shop in Rangapur. The police recovered the 10.45-gram ring, and have recovered valuables worth Rs 22 lakh.

Shankara stotra singing today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Singing of stotras of Shankaracharya by Meera Kannan on Wednesday from 7 am to 8.15 am at Atma Darshan Yogashran, 400, 93rd Main Rd, 1st Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout.

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Please contact for subscription/ service queries
(late receipt, non receipt or irregular supply of newspaper)
: 9008366666
: support@deccanherald.co.in

THE BIG DISCOUNT SALE
All New 2025 Collection at Mill Rate
Till 31st August Last
Credit Cards Accepted
SINCE 1960 hakoba
Embroidery beyond your imagination
CHIKAN EMBROIDERIES
Check out the Export Dress Materials, Punjabi Suit Fabrics, Sarees, Organdi, Voile, Terrene, Shiffon, Taspa, Swiss Voile, Ready-made Palazzo Pant, Kurtis, Legging Embroidered & Dupattas
HEAVY DISCOUNT UPTO 50%
HEMACHANDRA KALYANA MANTAPA
2nd Block (Near Ashoka Pillar) Jayanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560011.
Scan to Follow us on:
Shop online at : www.hakoba.in Tel : 8169209835

JOCKEY
FACTORY SECONDS
UPTO 50% OFF*
*T & C apply
· 10 am to 8 pm · Open All Days · Master / Visa Card Accepted
INNERWEAR · LEISUREWEAR · ACTIVEWEAR · KIDSWEAR · SOCKS
Venues In Bangalore
Infantry Road: Safina Plaza
Jayanagar: Srinivasa Sagar Kalyan Mahal, 2nd block, (Near Ashoka Pillar)
Banshankari: Sri Hari Kalyana Mantap, 30th Main, B.S.K. 3rd Stage, Near K.I.M.S. Hospital.
Bannerghatta: Billava Bhavana, No. 63, Opp. Meenakshi Temple.
R. R Nagar: Vasavi Mahal Kalyana Mantapa, (Basement), Next To Reliance Digital, Ideal Homes I Phase.
Vijay Nagar: Five O Gallery 17th Cross, M.C. Road, Near Vijay Nagar Bus Stop.
Rajajinagar: Raja Rajeshwari Kalyana Mantapa, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 2nd Block, Next to Blue Hyundai Showroom.
Malleswaram: The Canara Union, No.42, 8th Main, Canara Union Road.
Vimanapura Post: HAL Kalyana Mantapa, 629, HAL Old Township, Near HAL Old Airport, Bangalore (This venue starts from Tommorow (21.08.2025)
Koramangala: Apoorva International, #35A,Raheja Arcade, Opp Star Box, Bangalore -95
Basavanagudi: Amolak Apparels, 7/3, 1st Floor, Opp Karnataka Bank, Bangaluru 560004
Org. by: Surya Agency Pvt. Ltd.

SUZUKI
SUZUKI Avenis STREET KA OG
Clear The Roads, Just Like Ganesha Clears Obstacles.
LOAN UP TO 100*
NO HYPOTHECATION*
INSTANT PICKUP
AGILE HANDLING
Now available in Met. Mat Platinum Silver No. 2 + Glass Sparkle Black.
Powered by SEP SUZUKI ECO PERFORMANCE
Ultra light and robust 125cc engine
RIDE CONNECT SUZUKI
FOLLOW US:
Ride safe. Wear a helmet.
We reserve the right to make changes at any point of time, without prior notice in design, colour, specifications and features of product. All items/ products shown above may are indicative only and may vary in actual. Colours shown may vary from actually body colour of the product due to printing. Accessories shown in the pictures are not a part of the standard product. For the latest authentic information, kindly contact your nearest Authorized Dealer.*Suzuki Ride Connect Application is available for Android™ OS Version 10.0 onwards. Android is a trademark of Google LLC. *Suzuki ride connect application is available for iOS version 13.0 onwards. IOS is a trademark or registered trademark of Cisco in the U.S. and other countries and is used under license. ^^Missed call alert and caller ID feature is available in Android™ OS only. The Bluetooth® word mark and logos are registered trademarks owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. and any use of such marks by Suzuki is under license. ^Standard Edition refers to without Bluetooth® Enabled Digital Console Variant.
AUTHORISED DEALERSHIPS: BANGALORE: Hosur Road: NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, HSR Layout: NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, Bannerghatta Road: NINESTAR SUZUKI, Ph: 9019023333, Koramangala: ORION SUZUKI, Ph: 080-25524747, 9535081055, JP NAGAR: ORION SUZUKI, Ph: 96060 37441.Rajaji Nagar: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 7066016611/ 9916886525, Mathikere: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9113238844, Basaweshwara Nagar: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 8722037107, Sheshadripuram: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9741921526, Kottigepalya: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 7899739267, Peenya, Tumkur Road: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9986466659, Nelamangala: SAPTAGIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9591892296, Vasanthnagar: VALUE SUZUKI, Ph: 9845906084/ 9108258679, Yelhanka: HONNASIRI SUZUKI, Ph: 9945004047, Basavanagudi: ADVAITH SUZUKI, Ph: 9880741841, Kathriguppe: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 080-26697070/ 8080, 8884446504/08/02, BTM Layout: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446512, Kanakapura Road: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446503, RR Nagar: APPLE SUZUKI, Ph: 8884446502, Old Airport Road (Domlur): ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739969996, Whitefield: ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739969995, K. R. Puram: ARYAN SUZUKI,Ph: 9739949998, Mahadevpura: ARYAN SUZUKI, Ph: 9739929996, Hoodi:ARYAN SUZUKI – Bike Zone, Ph: 08047470000/8073783992, KH Road: AVANISH SUZUKI -9591931113, KH Road: AVANISH SUZUKI BIKEZONE-9900879000, Vijaynagar: AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 8971900111, 8197800222, Kengeri: AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 8197900111, 9108945333, Nagarbhavi: AVANISH SUZUKI, Ph: 9606988444/ 9148233644, Banaswadi: BHOJANNA SUZUKI, Ph: 9148656565, Bellary Road: MEGHAVATH SUZUKI, Ph: 9632899459, M G Road: MEGHDOOTH SUZUKI, Ph: 9513533384, HBR Layout: MEGHDOOTH SUZUKI: Ph: 9513533374., HOSAKOTE: DAIVIK SUZUKI, 9449046049, 7899366585

13,552 kidnapping cases registered in state since 2020

Data shows that 72% of the kidnapped kids are girls

BENGALURU, DHNS

Over the past five years, the number of children being abducted in the state has been on the upward spiral, much to the dismay of parents – since 2020, 13552 children have been kidnapped across Karnataka, with 9789 girls of the abducted kids.

That the state has already registered 1,318 abduction cases in the first seven months of 2025 is illustrative of the gravity of the problem. Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara in a written reply to the Council informed that Bengaluru accounted for 589 of the kidnapping cases registered in the state in 2025.

In fact, the abduction and subsequent murder of a 13-year-old boy in Bengaluru a few weeks ago had sent shockwaves across the community. Apart from Bengaluru, there has been a disturbing spike in abduction cases in Tumakuru, Mandya, Chitradurga and Davanagere districts. Although experts concede that a spike in the number of 'missing children' cases can be attributed to societal pressure, including expectations to perform well in academics, they were quick to point out that trafficking, children being pressed into labour and beggary were problems too big to be ignored.

Dr Anumeha, a child psychiatrist, was quick to point out that not all 'missing' children were victims of kidnapping. "There are instances of children voluntarily leaving home. Some cannot cope with parents' expectations to perform well in academics, or deal with pressure at school, while others choose to leave home because their parents are always squabbling, or because they don't get any love and affection at home," said Dr Anumeha.

She stressed the need for parents to allot time in the day to listen to their kids and create an atmosphere that encouraged sharing. "Parents today must learn management strategies," said Dr Anumeha.

Child rights activist Nagasimha G Rao also flagged reluctance among parents to approach police soon after learning that their child is missing. "The ten-hour period that follows realisation of the missing child is the 'golden hour'. In that time, parents must contact friends of the child, but in most cases, they are not aware of who their child's friends are. Parents must also have information about identity marks of the child ready at hand. Keeping an updated photograph of their child on the mobile phone will also come in handy in such situations," said Rao.

Although each police station had a Special Juvenile Police and a Child Welfare Officer, the entire responsibility of finding the missing child cannot be entrusted to the police, he added. "The community must assist the cops, and if the child returns home, the police must be immediately informed. Furthermore, anger must not be the parents' first reaction when the child returns home," said Rao.

Former minister and BJP MLC C T Ravi expressed concern over rising incidence of 'missing children' and kidnapping cases despite law enforcement authorities having the latest technologies at their disposal. He urged the government to convene meetings at the district and taluk levels to deliberate on pending cases of missing children.

A disturbing trend

Year	No. of missing boys	No. of missing girls	Total
2020	402	1,104	1,506
2021	462	1,591	2,053
2022	715	1,785	2,510
2023	869	2,083	2,952
2024	920	2,293	3,213
2025*	385	933	1,318
Total	**3,753**	**9,789**	**13,552**

*2025 data up to July

PIL challenges appointment of MLA to Kalyana Karnataka board

BENGALURU, DHNS: The high court on Monday ordered notice to the state government in a PIL challenging the appointment of Jewargi MLA Ajay Dharam Singh, son of former Chief Minister Dharam Singh, as chairman of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi directed the respondents to file their statement of objections.

The petitioner Saibanna Jamadar, a resident of Kalaburagi and President of Ahinda Chinthakara Vedike, also challenged the appointment of Nalini Atul, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Koppal District, as secretary of the board.

The petitioner claimed that as the notification by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) dated November 6, 2013, district in charge minister has to be appointed as chairman and a senior IAS officer not below the rank of the state secretary to the government as secretary of the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board. The petition said the state government appointed MLA Ajay Dharam Singh as chairman of the Board in August 2023 and in June 2025, appointed Nalini Atul, Deputy Commissioner of Koppal, as secretary of the Board.

The petition further stated that while both the state and the central governments are providing huge amounts in thousands of crores to improve the Kalyana Karnataka region, the fund is misused by the politicians and the bureaucrats. Upon complaints, the state government had referred the matter to E V Ramana Reddy, the additional Chief Secretary, to conduct an enquiry.

According to the petition, the report found misappropriation of funds and subsequently, the state government appointed Sudheer Kumar, a retired IAS officer, to submit a report within six months from November 11, 2024. Even then, the authorities have failed in discharging their duties, the petitioner said.

HC upholds dismissal of KSDL employee for concealing previous termination

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the dismissal of an employee of the state-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) for failing to disclose his termination from previous employment.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi noted that the KSDL's appointment letter to B R Chaluvaraj, Junior Officer (Production and Maintenance), clearly indicated that it was on the condition that he had not been dismissed as an employee of a government/semi-government/private institution.

Chaluvaraj, a resident of Mandya, had moved the division bench after a single bench dismissed his petition against dismissal.

The KSDL appointed him on May 26, 2014, and made enquiries with the police authorities under Rule 10 of the Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977, for obtaining the conduct and antecedent report.

Police informed KSDL that Chaluaraj was dismissed from Raithara Vyavasayothpanna Maaraata Sahakara Sangha Niyamitha, Mandya, on December 10, 2011, on allegations of misappropriating Rs 11,56,866. A charge sheet was also filed against him under IPC Section 408 in a court in Mandya.

After seeking his explanation, the disciplinary authority on January 21, 2015, released him from the post of Junior Officer with immediate effect.

After rounds of litigation before the high court challenging the action, the KSDL constituted a fresh enquiry with fresh articles of charges, including the allegations pertaining to the disciplinary proceedings initiated by the society in Mandya.

This report, submitted in April 2019, said that the charges were proven. Meanwhile, the high court quashed the criminal proceedings against Chaluvaraj in a separate proceeding. Ultimately, on June 14, 2019, the KSDL terminated him from service.

Chaluavaraj contended before the division bench that since the first inquiry officer held that charges were not proved, it was not open for KSDL to institute a fresh enquiry on the same charges.

The division bench noted that the material had established that Chaluvaraj was dismissed by the society in 2011 based on an inquiry report.

"The appellant (Chaluvaraj) was fully aware that once he had been dismissed from services, he would not be eligible for government employment. However, he had suppressed his dismissal while applying for the post of Junior Officer (P&M) in KSDL. The Inquiry Officer had found that the allegation of suppression of material facts was established and the allegations made in the Articles of Charges were proved," it said.

The bench further said, "Since there is no dispute that the appellant had been dismissed as an employee of the society prior to his appointment with KSDL on the allegation of misappropriation of a sum of RS 11,56,866, the appellant's appointment was liable to be cancelled. The fact that he had been dismissed from service was a material fact that was required to be disclosed. The appellant's appointment was conditional on his not being terminated from service by his previous employer."

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, डालटनगंज
(E-mail: eercdmedini-jhr@nic.in)

शुद्धि–पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि इस कार्यालय द्वारा दिनांक–29.07.2025 को विभिन्न समाचार पत्रो के माध्यम से ई–निविदा सं0–**7/RCD/Daltonganj/2025-26/658** आमंत्रित की गई है, जिसका **PR No.- 358924 Road(25-26)D** है। अपरिहार्य कारण से अगले आदेश तक रद्द किया जाता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग,
पथ प्रमंडल, डाल्टेनगंज

PR 359830 Road(25-26)#D

GENERAL NOTICE / CAUTION NOTICE

This general notice / caution notice is issued by **01. Smt. M. Leela, 02. Smt. Aarthi M Anil, 03. Smt. Kiran Nagaraj, 04. Shri. M. Avinash (LRs of Late M. Madhusudhan, Director and shareholder in both companies).**

We are holding substantial shares in the companies viz **M/s T R MILLS PRIVATE LIMITED and M/s CHANDRA SPINNING & WEAVING MILLS PRIVATE LIMITED** having their registered offices at No. 79, 5th Main Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-560018.

We state that as regards the holding of the shares, disputes are pending in various legal forums, including the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, Chennai, National Company Law Tribunal, Bangalore and Sole Arbitrator at Coimbatore. Suppressing the pendency of all the above legal proceedings, the following persons

1. K .Balachandran, Director, 2. K. Shamsundar, Shareholder/LR, 3. Sudha Purshottam, Shareholder/LR, 4. Aditi Purshottam, Shareholder/LR, 5. Bhagya Nagaraj, Shareholder/LR, 6. Yashwant Nagaraj, Shareholder/LR, 7. Ajay Nagaraj, Director, 8. Naveen Nagaraj, Director, 9. Chandra Manohar, Director, 10. M.Srinivas Prasad, Director, 11. Chaitanya Manohar, Director

along with alleged assignment holder **Mr. O. Arumugasamy**, Coimbatore are making attempts to transfer/ alienate their alleged interest in the above two companies, inspite of **favourable order passed in our favour by the National Company Law Tribunal.**

Schedule of immovable assets in litigations , measuring about 15 acres of both Mills together: Municipal numbers 76,77,78,79 located at 5th Main road, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru-560018. **East by:** Lane leading to SRN Adarsha College, Venkatram Slum, Kudli mutt area, **West by:** Vittal nagar and 8th Main road, **North by:** 5th Main road, Chamarajapet, **South by:** Kempambudhi Lake.

The general public are hereby cautioned/ warned not to deal with the aforesaid persons as regards the share holding of the two companies. We also state that any alleged share transfer by the aforesaid persons is illegal and the same will not bind us. Any sale/lease/mortgage and any other financial transactions on these properties, partial or whole, are also not binding on us and against the orders of NCLT.

Date: 19.08.2025

Legal Counsel:
Sd/- S Vignesh
S V Associates, Advocates
Coimbatore-641011

E-Auction Notice for Leasing of SLR/LVPH

E-Auction notice No : LEASE-KGP-25-14 **Date : 18.08.2025**

For and on behalf of the President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway invites e-auction for leasing of SLR/LVPHs for a period of 02 (Two) years for transportation of parcels in the trains which are notified in the **https://www.ireps.gov.in/** website are as follows : ● **Sl. No. : 1 ; Category :** Parcel; **Catalogue No. :** LEASE-KGP-25-14; **Date of e-Auction :** 29-08-2025; **Auction Start Time :** 10:30 hrs.; **Auction Closing Time** : 17:10 hrs. Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details of the trains and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-536) **Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/Kharagpur**

South Eastern Railway
We serve with a smile

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore.
Tender Notice No.E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-09-2025-26 dt.18/08/2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/General/ Construction/ Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

Name of Work: Perambur New Railway Hospital Phase II Electrification of New Service Building and Residual Works at New Railway Hospital, Perambur.

Tender Notice No. and Date		**E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT-09-2025-26 dt.18/08/2025**
1	Period of Completion	4 Months
2	Approximate Cost of Work	₹1,35,54,865.95
3	Cost of Tender form	Nil.
4	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹2,17,800/-
5	Tender Closing Date & Time	10/09/2025 at 11.00AM.
6	Tender Opening Date & Time	10/09/2025 at 11.30AM.

Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Elec. Engineer/
Gen./Cons./S.Rly, Egmore, Chennai - 8

(A Govt. of India Society)
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
Organized By IDEMI, Mumbai, Ministry of MSME, Govt of India

Government Certificate course on
Digital Marketing With AI

Course Duration 2 Days | Course Dates- 23,24 August 2025 | Course Timing - 10.30 am to 5.00 pm

VENUE: IDEMI EXTENTION CENTRE-C/O MSME DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, WEST OF CHORD RD, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RAJAJINAGAR, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA-560010

Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4

Content : Introduction of AI, Chat GTP, Gemini, Google, AI Image & Video Creator, Instagram & Facebook (Organic & Paid Marketing), Linkdin Professional Use, Google Business Profile Creation, YouTube & Earning, Search engine Optimization (SEO).

Fees 4000/-+18 % GST Regular (Include Lunch & Tea) | Student Fees- 2500+18 % GST (include lunch & tea)

(Fees are not Refundable)

For people from IT & Management Field, Entrepreneur Students & all general citizen

After successful certificate will be issued

Call for details between 10 am to 6 pm

Contact- 9403566219,8007765693, 9869087617

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department,
Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail--- eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement very Short Notice

e-Tender Reference No .-RCD/FSD /AP/ RAN/**11**/25-26 Dated **18.08.2025**

1	Name of Work	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed project report for Saico to Maranghada road via Dombari, Buru road including replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal of new culverts and bridges etc., complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal and Forest Diversion Proposal including clearance of all stages etc as required all complete as per latest guidelines, at Khunti in the state of Jharkhand from Consultants empanelled in Category-I with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -3063(S) W.E dated 22-08-2022 are allowed to bid.
2	Tentative Length	14.200 Km
3	Work completion time	60 Days
4	Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Cost of Tender Document - Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable)through online mode only. EMD :- Rs 30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand) through online mode only. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	21.08.2025, 05.00 PM
6	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	28.08.2025, 12.30 PM
7	Date and Timing of Bid opening	29.08.2025, 12.30 PM
8	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhavan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002, Mobile No-8051090751

For further information please go through the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division,A.P
Road Construction Department, Ranchi

PR.NO.359842 Road(25-26):D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
Signalling Work

Tender Notice No. SUR-N-T-2025-26-15 Date: 18.08.2025 DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works: **Name of work with its locality**: Painting of various location junction boxes, main auxiliary signal posts, EC Pole & Sockets etc. and other improvemental works at various locations of Kurduwadi-Miraj section of Solapur Division. **Approximate cost of the work**: Rs. 63,54,014.35. **Cost of the Tender form**: NIL. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 1,27,100/-. **Completion period of the work**: 06 Months. **Date and Time of closing of tender**: 10/09/2025 after 15.30 hrs. The details are available in ireps website.Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM/ S&T Branch
Central Railway, Solapur

APEX-65

रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: ENGG-06/25-26 (OPEN), Dated : 14.08.2025. e-Tenders are invited by Chief Works Manager/Eastern Railway/ Kanchrapara Workshop, Pin-743145, 24-North Parganas, West Bengal through website **https://gem.gov.in** from reputed Contractors with sufficient experience and financial capability who have executed similar nature of work in the past preferably with Railway/CPWD/PWD/MES/ Irrigation or any other public sector undertakings for the following work: **Tender No.: GeM/2025/B/6574346. Description of works:** Hiring of one non-AC commercial SUV vehicle for the use of Engineering Department viz. TATA Sumo/Bolero/Scorpio or equivalent for 03 (three) years on daily hire basis, covering a distance of 1500 x 320 hr. per month through GeM open tender process. **Tender Value:** ₹ 14,03,634.96. **Cost of tender document (non-refundable):** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security*:** ₹ 28,100. **Completion period ending on from the date of issuance of PO:** 36 months. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 25.08.2025. **The Railway Board. vide L.No.-2020/CE-1/CT/3E/GCC/POLICY, DT-30.12.2020 had instructed not to take any EMD for any works tender upto 31.12.2021. But, as there is no such further instruction till date, hence, the EMD system is returned back.* The scope of work is indicative only. However, detail can be viewed at Indian Railway e-tendering site (GeM) i.e. **https://gem.gov.in. Advertisement period:** Time during which all information pertaining to tender shall be available but offers cannot be submitted. Tender will be closed on **25.08.2025 at 14.00 hrs.** and tender will be opened on **same date at any time after 14.30 hrs.** as per availability of opening personnel and net accessibility.

(MISC-169/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at website: **www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in**

Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Salem Division
Office of the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer Electric Loco Shed, Erode
E-Tender Notice

Online tender is invited for the following work:

Tender No	**SA_A_RS_ED_OT_25_26_6, Dated: 18-08-2025**
Description of Work	Works contract for Repair / Rehabilitation of 7475 KVA transformers of WAP7 Loco with up-gradation of 7475 KVA Transformers into 7775 KVA Transformers available at Electric Loco Shed, Southern Railway, Salem Division, Erode.

All details regarding the tender are available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

DEE/RS/ED
For Sr.DEE/RS/ED

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Appointment of the first Registrar and the first Finance Officer of Sindhu Central University (SCU)

Applications are invited for the posts of the first Registrar (01-UR, Pay level 14) and the first Finance Officer (01-UR, Pay level 14) of Sindhu Central University through deputation or Direct Recruitment for a term of three years (Age - preferably below 57 years) in exercise of power conferred under Section 44(b) of Central Universities Act, 2009. In case of Misconduct or unsatisfactory performance such employee appointed as Registrar or Finance Officer may be repatriated/removed.

(1) Educational and other qualifications for the Registrar:

On Direct recruitment basis:

i. Master's degree with at least 55% of the marks or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed; and

ii. At least 15 years of experience as Assistant Professor in the Academic Level 11 and above or with 8 years of service in the Academic Level 12 and above including as Associate Professor along with experience in educational administration.

OR

Comparable experience in research establishment and/or other institutions of higher education.

OR

15 Years of administrative experience, of which 8 years shall be as Deputy Registrar or an equivalent post.

On Deputation basis:

Qualifications & Experience: As indicated above for Direct Recruitment basis.

Grade: Holding analogous post or eight years' experience at Pay Level-12.

(2) Educational and other qualifications for the Finance Officer:

On Direct recruitment basis: Same as that for Registrar on Direct Recruitment basis

On Deputation basis:

Appointment preferably by drawing officers not below the Level 12 belonging to the Indian Audit and Accounts services or other similar organized Services in Central/ State Govt.

OR

University System/ Other organisation subject to fulfilment of qualification as indicated for Direct Recruitment basis.

Procedure for appointment

- Appointment will be made by the Hon'ble Visitor (Hon'ble President of India) from a panel each for the first Registrar and the first Finance Officer consisting of at least three persons, in alphabetical order, recommended by a Committee, consisting of three persons of eminence in academic and public life, constituted by the Visitor for the purpose.
- The advertisement is available on the websites **http://www.education.gov.in. and https://sindhucu.ac.in.**
- Candidates are required to **"APPLY ONLINE ONLY"** on the Ministry of Education SAMARTH portal as per the link given below:

https://moegroupant.samarth.ac.in/

- The above link will be active from **20.08.2025, 10:00 Hours to 18.09.2025, 17;00 Hours.**

CBC 21201/11/0011/2526

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(A Statutory Body of the Government of India)
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
Ph : 011-26131577, 78, 80 & 011-29581000 Email : pubgrv@aicte-india.org, Website : www.aicte.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

CURBING THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN AICTE APPROVED TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS

It is brought to the notice of all AICTE approved Institutions, students and other various stakeholders that ragging is a criminal offence and AICTE has already notified its "All India Council for Technical Education (Prevention and Prohibition of Ragging in Technical Institutions Universities including Deemed to be Universities imparting technical education) Regulations 2009'' vide F.No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2009 dated July 1, 2009 and subsequent amendments notified from time to time in order to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging in AICTE approved Technical Institutions.

The above Regulations are mandatory and applies to all AICTE approved Institutions. Therefore all the Institutions should take necessary steps for its proper implementation such as :

- Constitution of Anti-Ragging Committee and Anti-Ragging Squad.
- Obtaining Undertakings at the time of admission and allotment of Hostel accommodation
- Dedicated cadre of Warden(s) and regular visits to hostels
- Creating awareness through regular meetings with students
- Appointing Professional Counselor (s) or Freshers
- Erection of Poster/Banners displaying provisions of law, punishments etc.

Any violation of AICTE Regulations as cited above by an AICTE approved Institution or an instance wherein any Institution fails to take adequate steps to prevent ragging or fails to act in accordance with these Regulations or fails to punish perpetrators for incidents of ragging suitably. AICTE shall call for punitive action against erring Institutions as per the provisions of the Approval Process Handbook.

Students in distress owing to ragging related incidents can access the National Anti-Ragging **Helpline No. (Tool Free) : 1800-180-5522** or e-mail at **helpline@antiragging.in** or visit **www.antiragging.in** or to write **the Member Secretary, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070.**

Advt. No. PGRC/AICTE/08(01)/2025

CBC 21300/12/0009/2526 **Member Secretary, AICTE**

SIT questions complainant-witness

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala questioned the complainant-witness at its Belthangandy office on Tuesday.

"The complainant-witness had so far shown 18 locations and exhumation has been conducted at 17 sites. Human remains were found at two locations. The skeletal remains and soil samples collected from the spots have been sent to a forensic science laboratory for examination," said sources. The investigation in these cases is in progress.

The information gathered from the Dharmasthala police station and the local Gram Panchayat and the statements of the complainant-witness are being thoroughly scrutinised as part of the investigation.

Allegations of murders in Dharmasthala 'baseless': Veerendra Heggade

INTERVIEW

Welcomes SIT probe, says truth should come out once & for all

BENGALURU, PTI

Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala Manjunatha temple, has dismissed allegations regarding the Soujanya case and claims of multiple murders, rapes and burials across Dharmasthala over two decades as "baseless and false" and welcomed the SIT probe.

Soujanya (17), a II PU student of Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College, was allegedly raped and murdered on October 9, 2012.

In an exclusive interview to PTI, Heggade said, "I was really hurt by these accusations. The way things are projected in social media is morally wrong".

On Home Minister G Parameshwara's statement in the Assembly that the SIT would get to the bottom of the issue, Heggade said, "We welcomed the SIT the same day. It's good that the state has formed it. Once and for all, truth should come out".

"We want the investigations to conclude at the earliest and the issue to be resolved. The SIT has to thoroughly investigate and the guilty must be punished," Heggade said.

He said an "organised campaign" targeting Dharmasthala and its trust had been carried out for over 14 years.

"Irked by the good work being done by us, some elements carry out false campaigns, but we are unperturbed," he said.

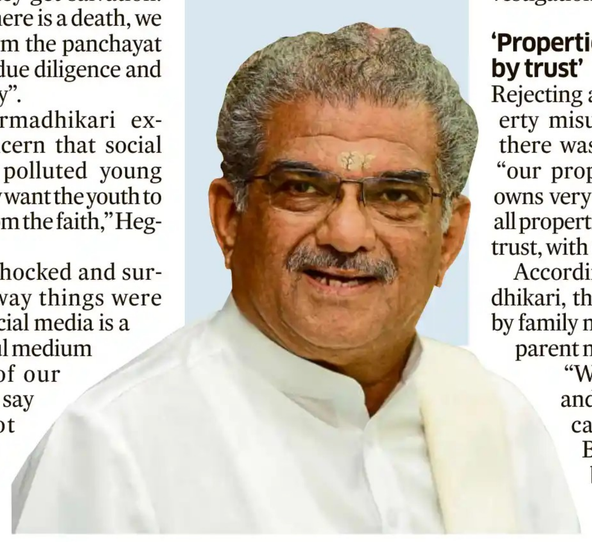
'Death & salvation'

Referring to recent videos of a masked man claiming to have buried bodies, he said, "This is impossible. There is a popular belief that if one dies in Dharmasthala, they get salvation. Whenever there is a death, we used to inform the panchayat and they do due diligence and bury the body".

The Dharmadhikari expressed concern that social media had polluted young minds. "They want the youth to turn away from the faith," Heggade rued.

"We are shocked and surprised the way things were depicted. Social media is a very powerful medium and many of our well-wishers say we have not used social media to publicise our good work. The work carried out is our duty, a commitment and service. We have reached all villages and touched 55 lakh families through various social works."

> "I was really hurt by these accusations. The way things are projected in social media is morally wrong. our well-wishers say we have not used social media to publicise our good work
>
> VEERENDRA HEGGADE



On renewed calls for justice in the Soujanya murder case, Heggade said, "When we came to know that such a thing has happened, we informed the government the same day. Allegations on our families are baseless. Our family members, who they made allegations against, were abroad for education and we produced documents".

He said even CBI investigations had been conducted earlier. "Yes. We cooperated and welcomed all kinds of investigation," he said.

'Properties owned by trust'

Rejecting allegations of property misuse, Heggade said there was no such thing as "our property". The family owns very little property and all properties are owned by the trust, with documents.

According to the Dharmadhikari, the trust is managed by family members in a transparent manner.

"We are four brothers and one brother takes care of education in Bengaluru, the other brother takes care of the temple here along with social work and I have a sister whose husband is vice chancellor of SDM University in Dharwad. All educational institutions are in the name of the trust," he said.

He dismissed suggestions that the controversy had taken a political turn.

"No, I don't think so. Congress leaders have also come here and so did JD(S) leaders. All parties have come out in support of the temple," Heggade said.

He welcomed Deputy CM D K Shivakumar's statement about a conspiracy to defame Dharmasthala.

Regarding CM Siddaramaiah's assertion that anything wrong would be investigated and guilty punished, Heggade said it was a natural statement and a good thing.

If temple authorities or anyone else have done anything wrong, they will be punished.

Faith unaffected

Reiterating that faith in Dharmasthala remained unaffected, Heggade said, "We carry out puja, rituals as usual. There is no change in crowd or customs".

He expressed satisfaction with the pace of inquiry. "I believe an interim report is given and soon, final report will be out," he said.

"The smear campaign will end as allegations are turning out to be false," he said.

GJR links Cong MP Sasikanth Senthil to 'plot against Dharmasthala'

Govt formed SIT hastily under pressure from him: BJP legislator

BENGALURU, DHNS

BJP MLA and former minister Gali Janardhan Reddy on Tuesday made allegations linking Tamil Nadu Congress MP and former Dakshina Kannada deputy commissioner Sasikanth Senthil to a conspiracy targeting the religious town of Dharmasthala.

Speaking to reporters, Reddy claimed the entire case — centred around the alleged burial of hundreds of bodies in Dharmasthala — is being orchestrated through Senthil.

The MLA asserted this was not merely a local controversy, but a coordinated effort to malign a sacred institution, with deep political undertones and national implications.

According to Reddy, the 'anonymous masked man,' a central figure in the case, is a native of Tamil Nadu and has been residing there for years.

"That person from Tamil Nadu has close ties with Senthil," Reddy said.

Under pressure from Senthil — closely connected to the Congress high command — the government hastily set up the SIT, he said.

"The truth will not come out through the SIT or government agencies," he declared.

"The high command's instructions have trapped the Congress government," he said.

Alleging a larger misinformation campaign over 15-20 days, Reddy cited a viral video by a Ballari-based YouTuber of another religion on the Soujanya case, which had millions of views. He claimed three left-leaning individuals amplified the controversy.

"Crores of people worldwide believe in the true deity of Dharmasthala," Reddy said, asserting that there was a systematic attack by left-wing elements allegedly led or influenced by Senthil. Quoting Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, he said a conspiracy had indeed been hatched.

CBI/NIA probe sought

Demanding investigation by CBI or NIA, or under the supervision of a High Court or Supreme Court judge, Reddy warned: "If the government doesn't decide on this, I will approach the court".

Bill moots sacking of PM, CMs if in...

Bill, From Page 1

In case of a prime minister who is in custody for 30 consecutive days, the Bill says that he "shall tender his resignation by the 31st day after such arrest and detention, and if he does not tender his resignation, he shall cease to be the Prime Minister with effect from the day falling thereafter".

Similar provisions are there for state ministers and chief ministers. In states, the Governor would be taking action. In Delhi and other Union Territories, the action will be taken by the President while in Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor is the authority that takes action.

The issue of leaders continuing in power had become a matter of contention following the arrest of then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and Tamil Nadu Minister V Senthil Balaji in cases.

Balaji was arrested in a money laundering case when he was a minister in 2023 and Chief Minister M K Stalin recommended to Governor R N Ravi to allot portfolios held by him to other ministers but retained him in the Cabinet. But Ravi took objection to his continuance in the Cabinet and dismissed him from the council of ministers unilaterally.

However, Stalin refused to remove him and maintained that it was his prerogative to appoint or remove ministers.

Drag on growth: CAG on...

CAG, From Page 1

The state's fiscal deficit also rose from Rs 46,623 in 2022-23 to Rs 65,522 in 2023-24.

"To finance the guarantee schemes and the deficits arising thereof, the state availed net market borrowing of Rs 63,000 crore which was Rs 37,000 crore more than last year's net borrowings (Rs 26,000 crore)," the CAG said. "This would not only increase repayment burden in the near future, but also would enormously increase the interest burden of the state," the audit warned.

Capital expenditure towards infrastructure dropped by Rs 5,229 crore, the CAG found. "This has an impact on the increase in incomplete projects by 68%...This compression in gross capital formation may prove to be detrimental to future growth prospects," the report said.

The CAG noted that three of the 'guarantee' schemes -- Gruha Jyoti, Anna Bhagya and Shakti -- were in the form of subsidies. As a result, the state's subsidy burden got pushed up to Rs 60,774 crore.

The finance department told CAG that the 'guarantee' schemes "boosted the local economy, reduced economic disparities and supported human capital development".

However, the CAG said that the schemes "would strain the financial economy of the state" if existing subsidies are not rationalised.

782 'suffocating' commuters rescued from...

Monorail, From Page 1

The problem started around 6.15 pm and the evacuation started around 7.45 pm hours after passengers broke open a window.

Teams of doctors were stationed outside the site. Because of the power failure, another monorail was stuck and was taken back to the station.

Video footage of rescue operations revealed that the stranded passengers were in deep discomfort because of humidity and suffocation.

"If was a difficult experience, but I must thank the monorail driver for being patient," said a senior citizen, who was rescued.

"I am in touch with the MMRDA commissioner, municipal commissioner, the police, and all relevant agencies," CM Devendra Fadnavis, who also ordered a probe, said.

DyCM Eknath Shinde, who is also the Urban Development Minister and Mumbai City district guardian minister, personally supervised the rescue o perations.

Some commuters said they were clueless about what needs to be done in such a situation and there were no instructions.

"With suburban trains not working, many commuters opted for the monorail," said one of the rescued passengers.

BJP MLA Captain R Tamil Selvan, who represents the Sion-Koliwada seat, rushed to the spot.

Tuesday's incident laid bare the vulnerabilities of India's sole monorail system in crisis situations, and one regular passenger told reporters that it was an 'unreliable' option as it reportedly keeps breaking down even in normal times.

India mulls early harvest border...

Modi, From Page 1

The 24th round of boundary negotiations also saw India and China agreeing to set up a working mechanism to advance effective border management to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

Neither New Delhi nor Beijing, however, clarified whether or not the special representatives of the two governments for boundary negotiations discussed the issue of lifting the moratorium on patrolling in the buffer zones, which were created in the western sector to resolve the stand-off.

According to a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, the two sides agreed on setting up an Expert Group, under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC), to explore early harvest in boundary delimitation in the India-China border areas.

A press release issued by the Chinese foreign ministry noted that the expert group would explore the possibility of advancing boundary demarcation negotiations in areas where conditions were ripe.

Beijing in the past proposed an "early-harvest agreement" with New Delhi to settle the bilateral dispute in the less contentious sectors of the China-India boundary. New Delhi declined the proposal from Beijing and maintained that it would prefer a comprehensive settlement over the entire India-China boundary.

The special representatives of India and China had started talks to resolve the boundary dispute in 2003. They had reached an agreement in 2005 on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for Settlement of the Boundary Question, which mentioned that the settlement "must be final, covering all sectors of the India-China boundary".

Wang later called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and formally handed over to him an invitation from President Xi Jinping to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's summit at Tianjin in northern China from August 31 to September 1.

"Stable, predictable, constructive ties between India and China will contribute significantly to regional as well as global peace and prosperity," Modi posted on X after Wang called on him. He added that he was looking forward to his next meeting with Xi on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

India is committed to reaching a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution" to its boundary dispute with China, Modi said, recalling his meeting with Xi at Kazan in Russia in October 2024 and noting that India-China relations had since then "made steady progress guided by respect for each other's interests and sensitivities".

Internal quota: SC (Right), SC (Left) to get 6%

Quota, From Page 1

The panel recommended 1% for most backward communities/group A, 6% for Madiga and others/group B, 5% for Holeya and others/group C, 4% for Lambani, Bhovi, Korma and Korcha/group D, and 1% for AK, AD and AA.

While the Madigas have retained the 6% reservation they got, the Holeyas have got an additional 1% reservation, while the most backward communities categorised under group A by the commission have been added to the group of 'touchable' Dalits (Bhovi, Banjara, Korma and Korcha).

Speaking to reporters, former social welfare minister H Anjaneya, a Madiga leader, said: "This has been a 30-35 years long fight of the Madigas, who have been deprived of reservation benefits. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had assured that 6% won't be compromised upon. But we were expecting 7%".

Law and Parliamentary affairs Minister HK Patil told reporters that the Cabinet meeting had been "fruitful," and that all communities were "satisfied."

"The Legislature session is going on and the Chief Minister will make his statement on this issue in the Legislature," Patil added.

While the decision may be accepted by the SC (Right) and SC (Left) communities, there are arguments that the most backward community will now suffer, since they have been grouped alongside the 'touchable' Dalits - found to be most forward amongst all Dalit groups by the Das Commission.

Even Anjaneya expressed some displeasure that the nomadic communities had been clubbed with the 'touchable' Dalits.

"The most backward communities should have been kept as it is. They are extremely backward and they are yet to get opportunities. This shouldn't have happened. I will check and speak about it tomorrow," he added.

Several experts have dubbed the decision to remove the separate category for nomadic communities as "unfair".

"This is an unfair decision. Even amongst the Dalits, the dominant communities have prevailed. The most backward and vulnerable communities have been discarded," said K N Lingappa, former backward classes commission member.

Kota alleges foreign funding, seeks ED probe

MANGALURU, DHNS: Udupi-Chikkamagaluru MP Kota Srinivas Poojary has written to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking an Enforcement Directorate inquiry into the "foreign funding" of some individuals, including YouTubers, who are harming Hindu religious beliefs.

The letter says a conspiracy was being hatched against Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy Temple and group has been attempting to tarnish its sanctity. "Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister has publicly stated that there is a conspiracy against the Manjunatha Swamy Temple. D-K district in charge minister had informed the media that a SIT was formed at the request of Left-wing groups. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has reportedly formed an SIT based on the statement of complainant witness. They are digging indiscriminately, even at the base of Bahubali, unsettling devotees," the letter says.

"There are also reports on YouTubers attempting to defame the temple receiving foreign funds. Hence, ED inquiry into foreign financial assistance received by those opposing Dharmasthala Manjunatha Swamy should be initiated," Poojary has sought.

Medical student ends life

BELAGAVI, DHNS: A postgraduate student of Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS) ended her life in her hostel room by consuming a poisonous substance on Monday evening.

The deceased has been identified as Dr Priya (27) from Bengaluru, and a psychiatry postgraduate.

The APMC police have registered a case.

Avenues

Tech-Perfect Solutions for the Nation's Defence
BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

Bharat Electronics Limited, a Navratna Company and India's Premier Professional Electronics Company under the Ministry of Defence, requires the following outstanding personnel on temporary basis for NS (S&CS) SBU;

Post & Post code	Qualification	Relevant Post Qualification Experience as on 01.08.2025	No of posts & Reservations	Place of posting	Consolidated remuneration per month
Project Engineer -I for NS (S&CS) Post Code-PRENS1 -2025	4 years full time BE/ B.Tech in the discipline of Electronics & Communication / Electronics / Telecommunication /Communication /Electronics & Telecommunication /Electrical & Electronics Engineering/ Electrical Engineering/ Instrumentation/ Electronics & Instrumentation with pass class.	Minimum 2 years of post-qualification experience in the field of installation and commissioning of Electronics / Electrical systems and integration of Electronic / Embedded systems for any projects	UR-10 EWS-02 OBC-04 SC-03 ST- 01 **TOTAL - 20**	Karwar, Vizag & Kolkata	1st year- Rs. 40,000/- 2nd year- Rs. 45,000/- 3rd year- Rs.50,000/-

Last date of application is **13.09.2025.** For detailed advertisement & instructions to apply, please visit CAREERS link on the official website www.bel-india.in

Sd/-
Date : **20.08.2025** Manager-HR (NS-S&CS)

'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

VP poll: Justice Sudershan is Oppn candidate

VP poll, From Page 1

"This Vice-Presidential contest is an ideological battle," Kharge told a press conference. "All Opposition parties have nominated Justice B Sudershan Reddy as their joint candidate. Justice Reddy is one of India's most distinguished and progressive jurists. He has been a consistent and courageous champion of social, economic and political justice."

Kharge added that Justice Reddy "reflects, fully, the values that shaped our country's freedom movement so profoundly". He also said the "Opposition MPs" would be meeting in 'Samvidhan Sadan's' Central Hall on Wednesday at 1 pm with Justice Reddy, who reached the capital in the evening. Trinamool Congress' Derek O'Brien highlighted that Kharge referred to the "Opposition" and "not I.N.D.I.A bloc" and added, "AAP is also on board".

While DMK was of the view that Annadurai be chosen as the joint candidate as it could help them avoid questions on opposing fellow Tamil Radhakrishnan, sources said there was an overwhelming view in the bloc that they should not reduce it to "Tamil vs Tamil" fight.

Sources said SP's Ramgopal Yadav opposed Gandhi's name, saying he had joined the party a few years ago and contested a Lok Sabha election, but they have no information about him afterwards. The leaders then zeroed in on 79-year-old Reddy, Goa's first Lokayukta and who was in the Supreme Court bench that annulled the Salwa Judum.

As senior MP Kanimozhi on the instructions of MK Stalin lobbied for Annadurai's candidature, sources said Kharge on Monday night dialled the DMK chief and briefed him about the consensus over Justice Reddy. Stalin is learnt to have agreed with Kharge and gave his stamp of approval.

With the Congress floating Reddy's name and Trinamool pushing it, other parties also fell in line. Incidentally, Justice Reddy was the Chairman of the Expert Group for Telangana Caste Census set up by the Congress-led government in the state.

Before being elevated to the SC from where he retired in July 2011, he was a Judge in the Andhra Pradesh High Court and Chief Justice of Guwahati High Court.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22215601, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 22215602

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಕ್ರೀಪ್ರಾ/ಸಿ5/49/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.08.2025

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಜಾಹೀರಾತು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ಫಿಟ್ನೆಸ್ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಹಿರಿಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಫಿಟ್ನೆಸ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ 13 ಫಿಟ್ನೆಸ್ ತರಬೇತುದಾರರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ನೇಮಕ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಭಾರತದ ಅರ್ಹ ನಾಗರೀಕರಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ.

ಅರ್ಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 05–09–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ರಾಜ್ಯ ಯುವ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ನೃಪತುಂಗ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001. ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಮಾಸಿಕ ಸಂಚಿತ ವೇತನ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಮಾನದಂಡ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನೊಳಗೊಂಡ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ dyes.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಹಾಗೂ ಮಹಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/CP/2385/Zen/2025-26

Vast tracts of agricultural land are flooded by the swollen River Cauvery in Kollegal taluk of Chamarajanagar district on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Rains relent in Malnad, but batter Kalyana Karnataka

BENGALURU, DHNS

Rains continued to batter Belagavi and several districts in Kalyana Karnataka region on Tuesday.

Copious rains have filled water bodies and rivers are in spate. Rainwater has gushed into low-lying areas and inundated farmlands. The Linganamakki dam in Shivamogga district is on the verge of reaching full reservoir level. Jog Falls has regained its glory owing to heavy rains in catchment areas.

Kalaburagi, Bidar, Yadgir, Raichur and Koppal district received heavy rains on the day. As much as two lakh cusec of water is being released into River Krishna from Basavarasagara dam in Narayanapur. As a result, Sheelahalli bridge in Lingsugur taluk of Raichur district is submerged, cutting off road connectivity to several villages in the vicinity.

However rains receded in Kodagu and Hassan districts. Since water level in River Cauvery has risen, the entry of tourists to Dubare elephant camp has been banned.

Bill bars industrial, commercial use on lake buffer zones

Minister assures that zones will only be used for govt activities; BJP walks out

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Assembly on Monday passed the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (Amendment) Bill seeking to rationalise buffer zones with Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju specifying that only government activities will be taken up near water bodies.

The Opposition BJP walked out in protest as the government did not agree to send the Bill to a house committee.

The Bill seeks to amend the buffer zones of lakes according to the size of the lakes: three metres from the boundary of a lake measuring up to one acre, six metres for lakes sized 1-10 acres, 12 metres for lakes sized 10-25 acres, 24 metres for lakes sized 25-100 metres and 30 metres for lakes above 100 acres.

BJP legislators were themselves divided on the issue. While coastal BJP MLAs welcomed the move by citing hurdles to build houses otherwise, the Bengaluru MLAs of the saffron party expressed their reservations.

Leading the charge, BJP's Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar demanded a house committee to vet the Bill, which he described as "unscientific" and "anti-environment".

Minor Irrigation Minister N S Boseraju speaks during the Assembly session at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Kumar said governments must protect lakes and the environment as per Directive Principles of State Policy.

"This (Bill) is a symbol of surrender by the government to the real estate lobby," he said.

However, BJP's Kundapur MLA Kiran Kumar Kodgi welcomed the Bill. "Most of the lakes in the coastal region are small. If not for area-wise buffer zones, we cannot build houses in the coastal region. We welcome this Bill on behalf of the coastal regions."

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who is also the Bengaluru Development Minister, told the Assembly that no builder had approached the government about reducing the buffer zones.

Shivakumar explained that the move was the on the back of elaborate discussions on the issue in the entire country.

Boseraju told the Assembly that there were 41,849 lakes in the state, of which only 178 were in Bengaluru.

"Even in Bengaluru, for lakes like Sankey Tank, the 30-metre buffer concept is not being applied even now," he added.

Suresh Kumar took exception to a point in the state of objects and reasons in the Bill, which explained that the area-wise buffer zones were being introduced to permit construction of public utility activities such as industrial activity, recreational and commercial within the specified buffer zones.

At this point, Boseraju clarified that the said point in the Bill had been revised, and that the new version had clarified that these zones can only be used for government activities.

Make fair decision on SCs' internal quota, BYV urges Siddu

BENGALURU, DHNS: BJP State President B Y Vijayendra on Tuesday urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to make a fair and decisive decision on internal reservation for the 101 sub-castes within the Scheduled Castes community.

B Y Vijayendra

Speaking at Vidhana Soudha, he warned against decisions that might cause injustice or public protests. Blaming Siddaramaiah for ongoing confusion on the issue, Vijayendra accused former's government of inaction since coming to power.

He highlighted that the previous BJP-led administration had increased SC and ST reservations.

Vijayendra criticised the Congress government for revisiting policies already enacted and called it political hypocrisy.

DH Classifieds
More value, more impact
email: classifieds@deccanherald.co.in
For your Classified Advertisements, Contact:
080 - 45557160 /161/ 162/ 163/ 164/
98451 14560 / 97318 10277/ 9886213331

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Teachers / Professors

POORNAPRAJNA EDUCATION CENTRE, INDIRANAGAR
(Promoted & Managed by Udupi Shree Adamaru Matha Education Council)
C.A Site No. 48, New Thippasandra, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore -75.
English Medium School to be affiliated to CBSE invites application for the following post:
ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE
(Admin. & Accounts)
B.Com with Tally ERP 9+ 1 yr experience
Apply immediately to Hon. Secretary
Email: contact.indiranagar@ppec.edu.in

HARWARD INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CBSE Affiliation No.830335. Dasanapura. Tumkur Road, Bangalore North 562123, WANTED TGT & PGT for SOCIAL, HINDI, COMPUTER SCIENCE, PRO & MARKETING EXECUTIVE (MBA). Please send CV to: infoharwardints@gmail.com Mobile: 9880112833 9945230286

AET INSTITUTION DODDAKANNELLI, SARJAPUR ROAD BANGALORE, WANTED TEACHERS WITH NTT, BA, B.Ed., B.Sc., B.Ed FOR PRE SCHOOL & PRIMARY ADMISSION OPEN FOR BCA (AI &ML) BBA, B COM, & BSC (FAD) CONTACT 9342204737

General

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY Communication Skilled MANAGERS, LADY EXECUTIVES. MARKETING EXECUTIVES. Good Salary. Walkin V&V GROUP, Behind IIMB, Bannerghatta Road: 99000-54462

JOB
To Place your Classified Ads Contact:
9886213331

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, Sri Irappa Rayannavar, alias Sri Irappa Kasappa Rayannavar alias Irappa K Rayannavar S/o Kasappa Rayannavar age 65 years residing at # No.10, 29/2 , 7th Cross, Maruthinagar, Madiwala, Bomanahalli Bengaluru South Bengaluru - 560068.
Do hereby declare vide affidavit dated on 05.08.2025, sworn before Advocate/Notary S Vijaykumar, Bengaluru. that all three names Irappa Rayannavar, Irappa K Rayannavar and Irappa Kasappa Rayannavar are one and same, and refers to myself alone and henceforth I will be named as Irappa Kasappa Rayannavar only in all communication & documents.

I, KAJAL JAIN D/o.MUKESH JAIN R/a.#38, 4th Cross RPC Layout, VijayaNagar Bangalore 560040 have changed my`Name to KAJAL_M_JAIN vide`affidavit dated:19.8.2025 before`Notary Mamatha.N.K. Bangalore.

BUSINESS

Business Offers

Finance

MSME LOANS Available for Any Startup Companies,Any Existing Companies NOTE:Also One Approved Loan Available Contact-7204995189

DH Classifieds More value, more impact ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ
RECRUITMENT
BOOK YOUR JOB ADS IN DH ALL KARNATAKA + PRAJAVANI BENGALURU CITY ON WEDNESDAY + SUNDAY
@ 2481/-* FOR 15 WORDS
*Conditions apply
www.dhclassifieds.com BOOK NOW
For more details contact:
+91 9731810277 | +91 9845114560 | +91 9900428036

CONNECT
BHARATHI ENTERPRISES
Speech & Hearing Centre
Hearing Aid Sales & Service
Special Offer Week!
signia Rechargeable & Invisible Hearing Aid
Now Open at
MATHIKERE
#1067, 1st Floor, Ramaiah College Bus Stop
Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, H.M.T Main Road
Ph.: 080-49743235, 9686664867
Locate us on Google
FRAZER TOWN, Coles Road, Mob: 9980682527
KAMMANAHALLI, KEB Road, Mob: 9901487270
KASTURI NAGAR, Channasandra Main Road, Mob: 9686664867
www.bharathiehearingcarecentre.com | bharathihearing@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE GOA MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES FACILITATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE OF INDUSTRIES, TRADE AND COMMERCE, UDYOG BRAVAN, PANAJI-GOA

CASE No. GA/01/S/GOA/00376

Rututek Enterprises .....Petitioner
Plot No. D7,Madkaim Industrial Estate, Madkaim, Ponda-Goa. 403404
V/S
Eram Scientific Solutions Private Limited, ...Respondent
727/34-72, Cross, 5"Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560010.
AND
Eram Scientific Solutions Private Limited, 707/First Floor, 73 Cross, Opp Dina Thanti. Office, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560010

NOTICE

To,
Eram Scientific Solutions Private Limited,.....Respondent
727/34-72, Cross, 5"Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560010.
AND
Eram Scientific Solutions Private Limited, 707/first Floor, 73 Cross, Opp Dina Thanti. Office, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore. Karnataka 560010.

WHEREAS, the above name Petitioner has made a request for substituted service and the same was allowed by the Goa Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.

AND WHEREAS, the application/reference/ notice copies dated 12/12/2022,16/05/2024 and 30/10/2024 were sent by Registered Post A/D through the Office of the Directorate of Industries, Trade, and Commerce, Udyog Bhavan, Panaji, Goa and the same has been returned withendorsement "No such firm in this address hence return to sender 17/12/2022, 21/05/2024 Address Left 20/05/2024 and Left return to sender 08/11/24.

AND WHEREAS, Petitioner has made request to this Council praying that Respondent may be served by substituted service by way of publication of this notice in a daily Newspapers of the area where Respondent is located by circulating in the locality and the Chairperson of this Council is satisfied that this is a fit case for ordering such service.

NOW THEREFORE, notice is hereby given to you under order V Rule 20(1A) of C.P.C to appear before the Council either in person or your duly authorized representative pleader on 12/09/2025 at 3.00 P.M. and to file your reply if any on the above-mentioned application.

TAKE FURTHER, notice that in default of your appearance on the above said date and time, the matter will be heard and determined in your absence and this is last and final opportunity to appear and plead before Goa Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Council, this 12 day of August 2025.

SEAL SD/- (Asvin Chandru A, IAS) Chairperson (Council)

JOB FAIR FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
HIRE EXPERIENCE. RELIABILITY. ELDERS.
Jobs 60+
INVITING EMPLOYERS TO COME FORWARD AND HIRE SKILLED CANDIDATES
WHY EMPLOY ELDERS?
▸ Physically fit (55 - 70 yrs)
▸ Vast experience and proven skills
▸ Reliable and committed workforce
▸ Cost-effective human resources
SUNDAY, 7TH SEP 2025
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, LANGFORD ROAD, BENGALURU
FREE Registration
www.nightingalesjobs60plus.com
jobs60plus@nightingaleseldercare.com
080 42426565 / +91 9243737214 / 8951441316
ORGANISED BY NIGHTINGALE EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH NIGHTINGALES MEDICAL TRUST, ARCHDIOCESE OF BANGALORE AND ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY

REAL ESTATE SELLING

Industrial & Factory

Tumkur Road

SALE, 2.24 Acres Land near Nelamangala Suitable for Warehouse, Industry, Residencial, School, Resorts. 9141326819, 9880462738

BUILDERS ESSENTIAL

Water Proofing

LEAKAGE... LEAKAGE... Old/New Building, Sump, Bathroom, Wallcrack, Skylight, Terrace Waterproofing done by New Technology-9880916988

CAUTION NOTICE

Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.

Advertisement Manager
The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

State meets 80% energy demand from renewable sources; sets record

Wind power generation up since onset of monsoon

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka on Monday scripted a new record by generating 143 million units of renewable energy which accounted for close to 80% of the state's power demand for the day.

According to a statement by the Energy department, the power generation through renewable sources has increased significantly in the state over the last few months.

"This feat was achieved because of good rainfall which brought down the agriculture power consumption in the state. This was also possible because of one of the season's best wind generation of 65.8 million units and solar and hydro contributing to 22.6 million units and 55.3 million units respectively," the statement said.

This record has been made possible by the state government's strategy of prioritising renewable energy sources, Energy Minister K J George said.

Karnataka has been improving its renewable energy generation capacity through various projects and that has paid off, said Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy department).

The department said that the wind power generation had increased significantly since the onset of the monsoon.

The heavy rains across the state have brought down the demand for power in the state.

At present, the energy demand stands at 179.03 million units per day as against 200.35 million units during the same period last year.

The power demand was also lower during the summer months.

Along with reduced demand, increased wind and solar generation have brought down the power purchase from central generation stations. As a result, the government's expenditure on power procurement has also come down.

EIA report for Keni port in U-K district 'lost in translation'

PAVAN KUMAR H
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Local fishermen, researchers and activists have questioned the discrepancies in the Kannada translation version of the environment impact assessment (EIA) provided by the district administration for the all–weather multi–cargo greenfield deepwater port at Keni near Ankola in Uttara Kannada district.

Based on the EIA, the district administration is scheduled to hold a public meeting at Ankola on August 22. However, the scientists and locals who have analysed the report say that several important aspects mentioned in the English version of the EIA are missing in the translated copy. While the English version of EIA is around 600 pages, Kannada executive summary report is just 48 pages.

The private port, which is being executed by the JSW at an estimated cost of Rs 6,515 cr with an estimated handling capacity of 92-million-metric-tonnes of cargo per annum will be coming up on 780 acres, of which 457 acres for a reclaimed foreshore facility, and the rest for a road, rail, pipeline corridor and storage facility.

Local fishermen had staged a 'jump into the sea' protest in February this year opposing the project as it would snatch their livelihood. Keni is considered one of the most fertile fishing grounds and breeding ground for several endangered marine species.

"Neither officials from district administration nor port officials informed us about the content of the EIA report. Without giving us details and not giving us documents in our mother tongue, how can the officials expect us to participate in a public hearing?" said Fishermen leader Sanjeev Balegar. He says the locals will continue to oppose the project till all their apprehensions are addressed and they are taken into confidence.

Marine Biologist V N Nayak in his written objections against EIA to district administration says in Kannada version the project is mentioned as Public-Private Partnership; whereas in English it is mentioned as a private project of JSW Keni Port Private Limited (JSW KPPL). "If it is a PPP model, then how many locals are involved in making decisions," he asks.

Nayak also questions the need for a Tamil Nadu based Annamalai University to conduct an EIA study for the project when Karnatak University has a Post Graduate Department of Studies in Marine Biology; Regional Center of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Karwar or National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.

Activist Vikas Tandel says "The EIA doesn't have a single word on the impact the project will have on the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats that is just a few km from the proposed port area. The allied development works will wreak havoc in Uttara Kannada, which is regularly reporting landslides and flooding."

Marine Biologist Prakash Mesta says the EIA has not recorded the presence of very critical and endemic marine animals in the fishing grounds of Keni. "The report mentions only commonly found and commercially important fishes in the proposed port area. The report also fails to highlight that once the breakwater for the port is constructed there would be no fishing grounds left for traditional fishermen," he says.

Repeated attempts to reach out to Deputy Commissioner K Lakshmi Priya yielded no response.

VIVA VITHAL DEVOTEE

Raibag man more than shoulders son's responsibility towards mother

RAIBAG (BELAGAVI DISTRICT), DHNS

A man from the taluk has won accolades for his act of carrying his 102-year-old mother on his shoulders for the 220-km Pandharpur pilgrimage, fulfilling her life-long wish.

Sadashiv Bane from Kempatti village in Raibag taluk has been described as a modern-day Shravankumar, a character from the Ramayana who carried his blind parents on a pilgrimage on a yoke and baskets placed on his shoulders.

Bane carried his mother Satyavva on his shoulders, braving the rains, and trekked the 220 km distance on foot to ensure that she has a glimpse of Lord Vithal, the presiding deity at Pandharpur in neighbouring Maharashtra. Bane is a devotee of Lord Vithal and has been participating in the 'dindi yatra' for the past 15 years.

He and his mother are part of a team from Kempatti, undertaking the 'dindi yatra' to Lord Vithal's abode.

"Mother is god and we need to fulfil her aspirations. Due to the blessings of Lord Vithal, I did not face any inconvenience while carrying her on my shoulders," the devoted son said.

Satyavva said her life's 'last wish' had been fulfilled by her son. "If there is rebirth, I want to be his mother again," she added.

Sadashiv Bane carries his 102-year-old mother Satyavva on his shoulders for a bath in River Chandrabhaga at Pandharpur.

REGIONAL DILEMMA: YSRCP & BRS face a tough situation; TDP, Jana Sena back NDA nominee

I.N.D.I.A bloc's VP pick puts Telugu parties in a bind

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The I.N.D.I.A bloc's selection of former Supreme Court judge B Sudershan Reddy, a Telugu, as its vice-presidential candidate has placed Telugu parties in a tight spot.

While the TDP and Jana Sena, key BJP allies in Andhra Pradesh, have little choice but to support NDA candidate CP Radhakrishnan, other regional parties like the YSRCP and BRS, which remain unaligned with either coalition, face a difficult decision: whether to back a fellow Telugu or a Tamilian.

Notably, the YSRCP, which holds 11 seats across both houses of Parliament, conveyed its intent to support the NDA candidate to the BJP leadership only on Monday. The party has consistently backed the NDA in elections to constitutional posts, having previously supported Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murmu for President, and M Venkaiah Naidu, another Telugu leader, and Jagdeep Dhankhar for Vice President.

"We have already conveyed our intent to support Radhakrishnan to the BJP leaders in Delhi. We didn't expect that the I.N.D.I.A bloc would field a Telugu person. I don't think our leader Jagan Mohan Reddy's decision would be reversed," a top YSRCP leader told *DH*.

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh reiterated TDP's unwavering support for the NDA candidate, making the party's position clear on the VP polls. "No ambiguity — only warmth, respect and resolve. The NDA stands united," Lokesh declared in a social media post on Tuesday shortly after the I.N.D.I.A Bloc announced Justice Sudershan Reddy's candidature.

I.N.D.I.A bloc's vice-presidential candidate B Sudershan Reddy being welcomed by MPs of Opposition parties at Delhi airport on Tuesday. PTI

Along with other TDP MPs, Lokesh, currently in Delhi, met Radhakrishnan on Monday evening and pledged the party's support. The TDP and Jana Sena together hold 21 members in the Lok Sabha, with N Chandrababu Naidu's party having four seats in the Rajya Sabha.

Also, YSRCP supremo Jagan recently criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, questioning why he remained silent about alleged "vote theft" in Andhra Pradesh and Arvind Kejriwal's electoral loss.

During a press conference in Tadepalli, Jagan accused CM Naidu of maintaining communication with Rahul through Telangana CM Revanth Reddy, suggesting this connection explains Rahul's silence on alleged atrocities in Andhra Pradesh.

Meanwhile, BRS Rajya Sabha member KR Suresh Reddy said that party supremo and former CM K Chandrasekhara Rao will decide whom to support. Despite Sudershan Reddy being a Telugu, the BRS finds itself in direct electoral competition with both Congress and BJP in Telangana, complicating any decision based solely on regional identity.

A REVANTH REDDY
Telangana Chief Minister

"Every Telugu person has a responsibility to ensure his victory. It is the reason I am requesting the TDP, YSRCP, BRS, MIM party and all the Lok Sabha and Rajya members in both the Telugu states to elect Justice Judershan Reddy. It is our responsibility.

MK STALIN
Tamil Nadu CM

"A jurist of integrity, independence, and as a champion of civil liberties and social justice, he has upheld constitutional values throughout his career. Reddy's candidature strengthens the collective resolve to safeguard democracy and protect the spirit of the Constitution at a time when institutions are under strain.

OMAR ABDULLAH
Jammu and Kashmir CM

"We still cannot understand why these vice-presidential polls were forced upon us. Where has former vice president (Jagdeep) Dhankhar gone? He has not been seen since he quit.... I hope he is healthy...

Sudershan Reddy: From SC judge to vice-presidential bid

HYDERABAD, DHNS

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Bommagani Sudershan Reddy, nominated by the I.N.D.I.A bloc as its vice-presidential candidate, has earned widespread recognition as an independent-minded jurist throughout his career.

Since retiring, he has remained a vocal advocate for human rights and judicial reforms. He continues to engage actively with social issues, collaborating with various public organisations based in Hyderabad. His advocacy includes strong opposition to extrajudicial killings.

Most recently, Reddy chaired the Independent Expert Working Group (IEWG) appointed by the Telangana Congress government to analyse the state's Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste Survey (SEEEPC survey).

In July, he submitted a comprehensive 300-page report to the government, contributing his expertise to the social documentation effort.

Born into a farming family on July 8, 1946, in Akula Mylaram village of Ranga Reddy district, Telangana, Justice Reddy has been a steadfast champion of human rights. He strongly criticised the controversial Disha encounters in 2019, in which four accused were killed by police.

His tenure in the Supreme Court is marked by several significant rulings that demonstrate his judicial integrity.

In 2011, in the Black Money case, Reddy ordered the formation of a Special Investigation Team to probe illicit wealth stashed abroad, criticising the government's inaction on the issue.

The same year, his bench declared the Chhattisgarh government's deployment of armed tribal youth as 'Special Police Officers' under the Salwa Judum programme unconstitutional, ruling it a violation of fundamental rights. The decision was hailed as a reflection of his judicial integrity.

In the 2010 Ambani family gas dispute, serving on the Constitution Bench, he held that natural gas is a national asset under government control, overriding private contractual claims.

Reddy completed his education in Hyderabad and obtained his LLB degree from Osmania University in 1971. He enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh the same year and began his practice, specialising in civil and constitutional matters.

Justice Reddy's judicial journey began when he was elevated as Additional Judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on May 2, 1995, and confirmed as a permanent judge later that year.

He was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on December 5, 2005.

On January 12, 2007, he was elevated to the Supreme Court of India, where he served with distinction until his retirement on July 8, 2011.

In March 2013, Justice Reddy was appointed as Goa's first Lokayukta. However, he resigned in October 2013, citing personal reasons and concerns over institutional limitations.

Parliament passes Mines and Minerals Bill

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025, which aimed at further liberalising and modernising India's mineral sector with a particular focus on critical and strategic minerals, was passed in Parliament.

The legislation, which amends original Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, and was earlier passed by Lok Sabha on August 12, received approval from the Rajya Sabha through a voice vote.

Though around 19 members participated in the debate, Opposition MPs staged a walkout from the House.

Responding to the debate, Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy highlighted the growing importance of critical minerals, noting that the government has identified 24 critical and strategic minerals and launched the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) with an outlay of Rs 34,000 crore to increase domestic production, including from offshore areas.

The amendment bill introduces several significant changes to modernise the mining framework: Mining leaseholders can now add new minerals, especially critical ones like lithium, cobalt, and nickel, to their existing operations without paying additional royalty.

NCERT modules blame Cong for Partition; party hits back

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has sparked controversy once again by stating that three parties were to blame for the Partition: Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Congress, and Mountbatten. In response, the Congress party called for the burning of such books.

In its newly released special modules marking Partition Remembrance Day, the curriculum body has published that the Partition and the birth of Pakistan could have been avoided and is the result of three key actors.

"There were three elements responsible for the Partition of India: Jinnah, who demanded it; second, the Congress, which accepted it; and third, Mountbatten, who implemented it," the special module says.

The module also quotes Jawaharlal Nehru as saying: "We have come to a stage when we must either accept division or face continued conflict and chaos. Partition is bad. But whatever the price of unity, the price of civil war would be infinitely greater."

To be sure, these are not textbooks but in addition to them. One of these modules is designed for the middle stage for Classes 6 to 8, and the other is for the secondary stage for Classes 9 to 12.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said that the book must be burned. "Set this book on fire ... The truth is that Partition happened because of the collaboration between the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League. If history has biggest villain, it is RSS. Future generations will not forgive the role it played in spying, which it continued for 25 years at that time," he said.

PM calls for unanimous election of Radhakrishnan

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday addressed the parliamentary party meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), where he introduced Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan to MPs as the vice-presidential candidate.

The prime minister also spoke at length about the Indus Water Treaty, calling it a historical mistake made by the Congress.

At the meeting, conducted by Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, the MPs were told by Modi that Radhakrishnan was a good choice for the post.

Sources present at the meeting said the PM also spoke about his association with Radhakrishnan, dating back four decades. "We have known each other for over 40 years; when he fought elections, I was the party general secretary and I made preparations for his election rally. We go back to a time when our hair was black," Modi told the gathering of lawmakers as per a senior minister.

Modi slams Nehru for Indus Water Treaty

Modi also addressed the Indus Water Treaty in detail and said that due to a decision taken by Jawaharlal Nehru, India's rightful share of water was given to Pakistan. As per sources, Modi told the MPs that neither the Cabinet nor Parliament had been taken into confidence on the important agreement.

"When there was an uproar on this issue, it was suppressed by holding a discussion for just two hours. Some Congress MPs had opposed the agreement; one MP had called it the 'height of stupidity'. But Nehru criticised those who opposed it by calling them people of 'petty mentality'," Modi told the MPs.

He further said that after undoing this wrong, several states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan will benefit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitates NDA's vice presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan as Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah applaud during the NDA parliamentary party meeting. PTI

After the meeting, Rijiju told reporters that Union Minister Rajnath Singh is trying to stitch a broader consensus among parties, including the Opposition. "Rajnath Singh is speaking to everyone, and we want unanimous support for Radhakrishnan," Rijiju said.

"The floor leaders and MPs of the NDA warmly welcomed Radhakrishnan... His introduction was given by Prime Minister Modi. He also appealed to MPs of all parties to come together and unanimously support the NDA's vice-presidential candidate. There is no controversy in his life, no corruption, no stain. He has lived a very simple life and has worked for society," Rijiju said.

NDA candidate to file nomination today

The NDA Vice-Presidential nominee, C P Radhakrishnan, will file his nomination on Wednesday, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

While a total of four sets of nominations need to be filed mandatorily, with each set to be signed by 20 proposers and 20 seconders, BJP lawmakers said more than that will be filed.

Sources said one set will be signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the first proposer. Similarly, three more will be filed, including one by BJP president JP Nadda. All the key NDA ally parties will also file at least one set of nominations, leaders said.

Currently, the Lok Sabha has 543 MPs, and of a total strength of 245 members, the Rajya Sabha now has 233 MPs. While the BJP has 240 MPs in the Lok Sabha and 102 Rajya Sabha MPs, the combined strength of the NDA in the Lok Sabha is 293 and in the Rajya Sabha is 128. The total NDA strength in both the Houses is 421.

YSRCP has announced his support for the NDA candidate, and with their 11 MPs, they have brought the support for Radhakrishnan to 433.

On the other hand, the I.N.D.I.A parties have 235 Lok Sabha MPs and 77 Rajya Sabha MPs. Their combined strength is 312, and with the support of AAP's 11 MPs, their combined strength stands at 325. Additionally, it remains unclear who the Bharat Rashtra Samiti's 3 MPs support.

Youth thrashed over non-veg meal while in saffron attire

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Close on the heels of incidents of violence at roadside eateries over serving non-veg food during the recently concluded Kanwar Yatra in parts of Uttar Pradesh, a youth was assaulted at an eatery near Lucknow for eating non-veg while wearing saffron clothes.

According to sources, the youth, a resident of Gosaiganj, was eating chicken when two men approached him and objected to his eating non-veg food while dressed in saffron.

They told him not to eat non-veg, saying it was "irreligious" to do so while wearing saffron, but he refused to comply. An altercation followed and the youth was assaulted by the duo. A case has been lodged against the duo.

Data error row: Fadnavis calls Rahul a 'serial liar'

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, DHNS

Hours after psephologist Sanjay Kumar, then co-director of Lokniti-CSDS, withdrew his posts on Maharashtra elections, Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis described Congress leader Rahul Gandhi as a "serial liar."

"Like a serial killer... Rahul Gandhi is a serial liar," Fadnavis told reporters in Mumbai, accusing the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha of attempting to create doubts in the public mind after the BJP-led Maha Yuti alliance's big victory.

Kumar had posted voter data from two Assembly seats in Maharashtra on X, claiming a significant fall in voter numbers compared to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections held six months earlier.

He deleted the post on Tuesday, apologising and clarifying that his team had misread data rows. "I sincerely apologise... The error occurred while comparing LS and AS data. I had no intention of spreading misinformation," Sanjay Kumar wrote.

The BJP, however, launched a sharp attack. National spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that Kumar's "false data" was used by the Opposition to malign the Election Commission.

"This survey organisation (CSDS) is nothing but a puppet in the hands of leaders like Rahul Gandhi. It gets foreign funding to interfere in elections through parties that work against national interest," Bhatia charged.

He also accused Gandhi of relying on "fake data" to make baseless allegations.

BJP IT department head Amit Malviya echoed the charge, saying: "The very institution whose data Rahul Gandhi leaned on to defame the voters of Maharashtra has now admitted its figures were wrong — not just on Maharashtra, but even on SIR. Where does this leave Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, which brazenly targeted the Election Commission and went so far as to brand genuine voters as fake? Shameful."

Rahul will become PM after next LS polls: Tejashwi

PATNA, PTI: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday exhorted the people of Bihar to make Congress leader Rahul Gandhi the prime minister after the next Lok Sabha polls.

Addressing a rally on the third day of Congress' 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Nawada, he also called upon the youth to "root out the NDA" from the state in the assembly elections due later in the year.

Yadav was accompanied by Gandhi and other I.N.D.I.A bloc leaders as part of the fortnight-long yatra, which began on Sunday.

The RJD leader described Gandhi as the one "who has given sleepless nights to Prime Minister Narendra Modi" for undertaking the state-wide yatra.

"In the upcoming assembly polls, we shall root out the NDA, which has been running a government comparable to a rickety old car ('khatara') for the last 20 years. And, in the next Lok Sabha polls, we shall make Rahul Gandhi the prime minister," said Yadav, evoking cheers from the crowd.

LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and CPI (ML) General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya during the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' in Nawada district. PTI

"We have a vision for a new Bihar," asserted the former deputy chief minister, who spoke into a hand-held mic, from atop an open vehicle that carried him, Gandhi, CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Vikassheel Insan Party president Mukesh Sahni and state Congress chief Rajesh Kumar.

Takes potshot at Nitish

Taking potshots at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the Leader of the Opposition in the assembly, said, "The CM is not in his senses. He is not able to run Bihar. His government has become a copycat. I had promised free power, domicile policy, hike in social security pensions and setting up of a Youth Commission.

"The state government presented these as newly devised schemes. It has remained oblivious to the state's crying need for better education, health, employment, irrigation facilities and accountability."

Training his guns at the BJP, Yadav said "they have colluded with the Election Commission to deprive the people of Bihar of their right to vote".

MAKE IN INDIA

Nod for Rs 62k-cr deal to buy 97 LCA Mark 1A fighter jets

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Cabinet Committee on Security on Tuesday approved the purchase of 97 additional Tejas LCA Mk-1A from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited at a cost of about Rs 62,000 crore to boost the Indian Air Force's depleting squadron strength, sources said.

The approval comes nearly two years after the initial nod from the defence ministry and will be a big boost to the indigenous defence manufacturing business.

However, the Union government has not yet officially confirmed the CCS approval for 97 additional jets.

The delivery of the aircraft, sources said, would begin after HAL completes the supply of 83 similar aircraft for which the defence ministry awarded a Rs 45,696 crore contract to the Bengaluru-based aviation company four years ago.

The HAL, however, has not been able to supply a single Tejas LCA Mk-1A to the IAF because of the US major General Electric's failure to supply the F404 engines for the aircraft.

After a two-year delay, the supply began on a slow pace this year with the HAL receiving only two engines so far. While the contract with GE was to supply 99 engines for the first batch of 83 Tejas Mk-1A jets, sources said, the US company has a backlog of 24 aircraft as of now.

Notwithstanding the delay, HAL officials had claimed earlier this year that the company would be able to supply 180 aircraft by 2031-32 as per the original plan. HAL currently has two assembly lines and a third is set to become operational at Nashik.

Small enterprises

The indigenous fighter aircraft programme, backed by the defence ministry and Air Headquarters will not only promote indigenisation but will also give a leg-up to small and medium enterprises engaged in defence business across the country.

Sources said the indigenous content in the new batch of Tejas LCA-Mk1A would be around 65%. The LCA MK-1A has 43 "improvements" as compared to the 40 first-generation aircraft that are part of the IAF and are used primarily for training purposes.

The CCS approval comes at a time when the IAF is looking at its lowest combat strength of 29 squadrons after the retirement of the last two squadrons of MiG-21 next month.

Assam Rifles, IIIT sign pact to boost drone capabilities

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Assam Rifles is trying to equip its personnel with drone technology and modern warfare in order to enhance operational capability, particularly along the treacherous border with Myanmar in the country's Northeastern region.

As part of the move, Assam Rifles signed an MoU with the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Manipur on Monday, while stressing the growing imperative for defence–academia collaboration in harnessing emerging technologies for national security.

Following the signing of the MoU on Monday, officials of both Assam Rifles and IIIT shared insights on the transformative potential of drone systems in modern warfare and emphasised the need for joint efforts to accelerate technology absorption within operational frameworks, Assam Rifles said in a statement.

They also launched an advanced Drone Training and Refresher Course tailored for the Assam Rifles personnel guarding the borders.

"The course includes hands-on training in drone flight operations, maintenance protocols, and certification aligned with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation standards. Designed to enhance both technical proficiency and field adaptability, the course aims to equip personnel with the skills necessary for surveillance, reconnaissance, and logistics support in dynamic terrains," said the statement.

Formed in 1835, the Assam Rifles is one of oldest paramilitary forces, and is under operational command of the Army. Assam Rifles still guards the 1,643 km borders with Myanmar that Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal share.

Taiwan part of China: India

NEW DELHI, DHNS

India has reaffirmed that Taiwan is a part of China, Beijing has claimed, even as National Security Advisor Ajit Doval hosted the neighbouring country's foreign minister, Wang Yi, on Tuesday.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the government of China quoted Jaishankar as saying during the meeting with Wang that maintaining a stable, cooperative, and forward-looking relationship would serve the interests of both countries. It also quoted the external affairs minister telling his counterpart that India considered Taiwan to be a part of China.

New Delhi has never explicitly reaffirmed its 'One-China' policy in the past 17 years.

'No shift in policy'

A source in New Delhi, however, said India had not shifted from its stand on Taiwan. Jaishankar told Wang that India, like the rest of the world, had a relationship with Taiwan that focused on economic, cultural and technological ties, added the source.

New Delhi had earlier reaffirmed its 'One-China' policy in its joint statements with Beijing, but stopped doing so after 2008, in response to China's policy of issuing 'stapled visas' to the residents of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. China used the 'stapled visas' to assert its claims over Indian territories.

The Indian government, however, in July 2018 indirectly reaffirmed its adherence to the 'One-China policy' and made Air India change 'Taiwan' with 'Chinese Taipei' in its website. Taiwan had strongly reacted, stating that the move could be seen as India 'succumbing to the unreasonable and absurd pressure from China'.

China's April-May 2020 moves to unilaterally change the status quo along its disputed boundary with India in eastern Ladakh and the consequent four-and-a-half-year-long military stand-off between the two sides had, however, triggered calls to the Modi Government in New Delhi to review its policy on Taiwan to send out a message to the communist country. The government, however, did not make any such move.

Border trade to resume

India and China have agreed to reopen the border trade through the three designated points – Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim. The decision was taken during a meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

Jaishankar also conveyed to Wang India's concerns over the mega dam construction being undertaken by China in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangpo (Brahmaputra river), which will have implications for lower riparian states.

Borders have been quiet, Doval tells Wang

Chinese FM stresses building mutual trust to solve issues

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The India-China border areas have been quiet in the past nine months, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said on Tuesday, a day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar stressed the withdrawal of additional troops deployed by both sides along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) during the 2020-2024 military stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met in New Delhi for the 24th round of negotiations aimed at resolving the long-standing boundary dispute between India and China.

"There has been an upward trend (in bilateral relations) in the past nine months," Doval told Wang. He was referring to the efforts being made by India and China to mend ties after the stand-off came to an end in October 2024.

"Borders have been quiet. There has been peace and tranquillity. Our bilateral engagements have been more substantial," Doval said.

Wang said that the two sides should "increase mutual trust through strategic communication, expand common interest through exchanges and cooperation, and properly settle the specific issues" along the boundary. "We are heartened to see the stability that has now been restored along the borders," said the foreign minister of China.

On Monday, Jaishankar told Wang that the de-escalation process — the withdrawal of additional troops deployed by both sides along the LAC — should "move forward". Jaishankar also linked the positive momentum in India-China relations with the maintenance of peace and tranquillity along the boundary.

NSA Ajit Doval and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi leave after their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

The Ladakh stand-off started in April-May 2020 with the aggressive deployment of a large number of troops by the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and the Indian Army responding with counter-deployment. It reached a flashpoint with a violent face-off in Galwan Valley on June 15, 2020.

The two sides, however, could not make much progress on disengagement, despite the resumption of negotiations to resolve the dispute in December 2024.

The 1993 and 1996 agreements between India and China required both sides to refrain from amassing large numbers of troops in the border areas, to abide by and respect the LAC strictly and to avoid taking any unilateral action to alter it.

On Tuesday, Doval referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit at Kazan in Russia on October 23, 2024, immediately after the deal on patrolling in Depsung and Demchok areas formally ended the LAC stand-off.

"The new environment that has been created has helped us in moving ahead in the various areas that we were working on," Doval told Wang.

China to lift curbs on fertilisers, rare earth minerals to India

NEW DELHI, PTI : China has agreed to ease restrictions to facilitate supply of rare earth minerals and fertilisers to India, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wany Yi conveying the forward movement on the matter to his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, authoritative sources said on Tuesday.

Wang gave the assurance during his talks with Jaishankar on Monday.

China promised to address three key concerns of India, the sources said.

"Foreign Minister Wang Yi assured External Affairs Minister Jaishankar that China is addressing India's needs of fertilisers, rare earths and tunnel boring machines," one of the sources said.

Jaishankar had on Monday said, without providing details, that he brought up "particular concerns" in the meeting that he had flagged during his visit to Beijing last month as well.

There was no official word on the matter from either side.

Rare earth minerals are considered vital for high-end technology products, including electric vehicles (EVs), drones, and battery storage. China has been a dominant player in the critical minerals supply chain globally.

India has been looking at a steady supply of rare earth minerals to fuel its economic growth. China accounts for around 70% of global rare earth mining that makes it a very dominant player in the global supply chain of the critical minerals. China used to export huge quantities of fertiliser to India till 2023.

However, Beijing stopped the supplies to a large number of countries last year. It lifted the restrictions in June but did not relax the norms for resuming exports to India.

It is learnt that Beijing has stopped exporting tunnel boring machines to India.

There have been renewed efforts by the two sides to reset their ties that witnessed severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border row.

A bus stuck in a waterlogged underpass in Navi Mumbai on Tuesday. PTI

Mumbai lifelines grind to a halt on Day 2 of deluge

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Mumbai reeled under torrential rains for the second consecutive day, as waterlogged roads and railway tracks threw life out of gear, leaving thousands stranded. Over 1,000 people were rescued across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

Rivers like the Mithi and Ulhas swelled past danger marks as relentless downpours battered the financial capital. Suburban train services were stalled, and several flights were rerouted amid widespread disruptions.

From Palghar to Raigad, several districts were placed under red alert as civic authorities scrambled to contain the chaos.

Between Sunday and Tuesday, many parts of the metropolis recorded over 600 mm of rainfall. With more showers forecast over the next 48 hours, the city remains on edge.

Heavy waterlogging was reported across the twin districts of Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban, as well as adjoining stretches of Palghar, Thane and Raigad, covering both urban and rural areas.

An orange alert has been issued for Mumbai-MMR for Wednesday, with the Regional Meteorological Centre of the IMD forecasting heavy rain or thundershowers across most parts of the Konkan-Goa belt.

"The next 48 hours are going to be crucial," Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said during a situation review at the weekly Cabinet meeting.

Between 400 and 500 people living near the Mithi River were rescued, while a similar operation was carried out in the Vasai-Virar township of Palghar district.

Swollen rivers

Several rivers across the coastal Konkan belt, including Mumbai's Mithi, have crossed danger marks. The Ulhas swelled in Thane and Palghar, while Raigad's Kundalika, Amba and Savitri also breached safe levels. In Ratnagiri, the Jagbudi touched the brim, prompting safety measures along Vashisth, Shastri, Kajli and Kodali.

Operations at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, one of the country's busiest, were disrupted during the day, with nearly a dozen go-arounds reported over a 24-hour period.

Army's rescue ops

The Indian Army joined rescue operations in Nanded district after cloudburst-triggered floods left eight dead and several missing.

The death toll across Maharashtra rose to 12 on Tuesday, with rain-related casualties also reported from Beed, Hingoli, Akola, Gadchiroli and Mumbai.

Cabinet okays Bill to regulate online gaming platforms

Draft legislation bans money-based online games

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Online Gaming Bill, which aims to make online betting a punishable offence, sources in the government said on Tuesday.

The "Promotion & Regulation of Online Gaming Bill 2025" is likely to be tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, the source added.

According to sources, the draft legislation seeks to prohibit all money-based online games, irrespective of whether they involve skill or chance. The Bill proposes a ban on offering, aiding, abetting, promoting any online money gaming service and declares it an offence. The Bill also disallows banks and financial institutions from processing any related transactions.

The government decided to bring in a law to regulate online gaming following a rise in fraud cases in recent months as well significant mental health issues due to addiction, particularly those involving monetary incentives. Several government investigating agencies have flagged that online money gaming also facilitates money laundering, fraudulent financial transactions, and cyber crime, among others.

The law will also remove inconsistencies in state laws regarding gambling, said an official in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology adding that the proposed legislation will bring all online gaming platforms under a clear legal framework.

According to the present legal framework, states and Union Territories are primarily responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes, including action on illegal betting and gambling. Several real money gaming firms are masquerading as "game of skills" to differentiate themselves from betting or gambling platforms and avoid a ban.

CRACKING DOWN

- E-gaming shall not involve placing of bets, wagers or any other stakes
- Agency to recognise and register e-sports
- Offer, aid, inducement or offering of online money game or services banned
- Violation may lead to 3-yr jail, Rs 1 cr fine or both
- Advertisement of online money game can invite 2-year imprisonment or fine of Rs 50 lakh

MEA flags fake posts seeking donations for Nimisha Priya

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday trashed as "fake" claims being made on social media seeking 'monetary contributions' into a government-designated bank account, in the case related to Nimisha Priya, an Indian nurse on death row in Yemen.

The X handle of the ministry's fact-check team—MEA FactCheck—also posted a screenshot of a post made by an X user in which such claims have been made. The post by the user, dated August 19, also carries a poster with a slogan 'Save Nimisha Priya' and some 'bank transaction' details.

"We have seen claims being made on social media seeking monetary contributions into a GoI designated bank account in the Nimisha Priya case. This is a fake claim," the MEA FactCheck posted.

India said on August 1 that it continues to render all possible assistance in the case of Nimisha Priya. The MEA said it is also in touch with some friendly governments as part of efforts to reach a solution in the case.

The nurse, hailing from Kerala's Palakkad district, has been found guilty of murdering a Yemeni citizen in July 2017. Priya's execution was scheduled for July 16, but it was postponed following the intervention of Indian officials.

SC slams CFSL for 'misdirected' probe into Manipur audio tapes

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed displeasure over the Central Forensic Science Laboratory's (CFSL) exercise to test the audio recordings pointing to the alleged role of former Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh in the ethnic violence in the state, calling it "misdirected".

A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Kumar and Satish Chandra Sharma said it hadn't asked about the authenticity of audio clips but directed testing of the voice samples. "We had not asked about the authenticity of the video. What we are asking for is after testing that voice with the admitted voice of the individual whether it can be identified that same persons are speaking in both?" it said.

The bench went on to tell Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, "We don't need authenticity of the video to be established. The entire exercise seems to be misdirected. Only wishy-washy answers are being given. The CFSL is under the impression that we want to know if the video is authentic or not."

The top court also rejected an application filed by Singh's daughter seeking to be added as a party to the case and said it wasn't a "family support programme".

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust, sought an independent SIT investigation in the matter.

He alleged the same government, which the former chief minister belongs to, has administrative control over the CFSL laboratory.

The bench, however, said, "You cannot suspect the bonafides of every organisation on the ground of administrative control. We will have to bring an organisation from abroad."

The matter was posted for August 25 as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta was in another court.

'Can Supreme Court rewrite Constitution': A-G asks in presidential reference case

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Attorney General R Venkataramani on Tuesday questioned the Supreme Court's April 8, 2025, judgment which set the deadline for the Governors and the President to grant assent to Bills passed by legislatures, by wondering if the court can rewrite the Constitution.

"You (SC) bind the hands of the President. The President will exercise highest consideration whether to assent or not. The court entered into a regulation-making power here. The President and Governor virtually robbed of their application of mind. Can the court go to the extent where it says let me take a pen and paper and rewrite the Constitution," he asked before a five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai.

Venkantaramani, while assisting the court in the Presidential reference, contended that the Supreme Court cannot step in the shoes of the authority.

The bench, however, asked him as to what would be the "constitutionally permissible recourse" when the court is confronted with a situation where the Governor was keeping Bills pending for several years.

In response, he said, even in such an undesirable situation, the court cannot take over the functions of the Governor and declare assent for the Bills.

The Constitution bench also comprised of Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar.

On a question by the court that the 2020 Bills were even pending in Tamil Nadu, Venkantaramani acknowledged that 'yes', it was a fact.

He, however, clarified that he was not asking the court to revisit the Tamil Nadu judgment.

There were certain explanations given for the delay in clearing the Bills, which the court rejected, he claimed.

"There are many reasons why probably the Governor kept on without giving his assent in time. We are not going into those reasons," he submitted.

The hearing is likely to resume on Wednesday.

Answering presidential reference not to affect TN judgment: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said answering the Presidential reference on fixing timelines for the President and the Governor to clear the Bills passed by the state legislatures would not affect the judgment in the case of Tamil Nadu.

Beginning the hearing on reference made on May 13, 2025, a five-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India B R Gavai sought to allay the apprehensions expressed by Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The bench also comprised Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P S Narasimha and A S Chandurkar.

"We are not deciding whether the Tamil Nadu judgment is correct or not. We are only answering the reference made by the President," the bench said.

The court also asked as to what was wrong if President herself sought views through a presidential reference.

The court posed the question when the counsel representing the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments questioned the very maintainability of the Presidential reference. The bench said it is only acting under the advisory jurisdiction.

A bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, in a judgment on April 8, 2025, declared that the Tamil Nadu Governor's decision to withhold assent to 10 bills was "illegal" and "arbitrary" and fixed a three-month timeline for the President to clear them.

President Droupadi Murmu, subsequently, exercised powers under Article 143(1) to know from the top court whether timelines could be imposed by judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, for Tamil Nadu government, contended that the nature of the present case is such that the bench may disturb the decision in TN case.

SC: Financial constraint no reason to deny regularisation

NEW DELHI, DHNS: In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court on Tuesday said financial constraints cannot be invoked as a 'talisman' to deny lawful regularisation to workers who have been performing perennial functions for decades.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta overturned the Allahabad High Court's refusal to grant relief to long-serving daily wage employees of the UP Higher Education Services Commission.

The court emphasised that the state (referring to both the Union and the state governments) is not a mere market participant but a constitutional employer. It cannot balance budgets on the backs of those who perform the most basic and recurring public functions.

"The long-term extraction of regular labour under temporary labels corrodes confidence in public administration and offends the promise of equal protection," the court said.

"If 'constraint' is invoked, the record should show what alternatives were considered, why similarly placed workers were treated differently, and how the chosen course aligns with Articles 14, 16 and 21 of the Constitution. Sensitivity to the human consequences of prolonged insecurity is not sentimentality. It is a constitutional discipline that should inform every decision affecting those who keep public offices running," Justice Nath wrote in the judgment.

The plea filed by Dharam Singh and others concerned six appellants who were engaged between 1989 and 1992 as peons and a driver.

Despite more than 30 years of service, their status remained that of daily wagers or fixed honorarium employees, receiving only Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 per month for years while performing the full functions of sanctioned posts.

Granting them the relief, the court set out the operative scheme comprising of creation of supernumerary posts, full regularisation, subsequent financial benefits, and a sworn affidavit of compliance, "as a pathway designed to convert rights into outcomes and to reaffirm that fairness in engagement and transparency in administration are not matters of grace, but obligations under Articles 14, 16 and 21 of the Constitution".

SUPREME COURT

"We think it necessary to recall that the state (here referring to both the Union and the State governments) is not a mere market participant but a constitutional employer. Where work recurs day after day and year after year, the establishment must reflect that reality in its sanctioned strength and engagement practices.

"Financial stringency certainly has a place in public policy, but it is not a talisman that overrides fairness, reason and the duty to organise work on lawful lines. Moreover, it must necessarily be noted that 'ad-hocism' thrives where administration is opaque

Over 43,700 km of rural roads laid using waste plastic: Minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that over 43,700 km of rural roads have been laid using waste plastic under various verticals of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

In a written reply, Paswan said the ministry issued a 'Vision Document on New Technology Initiatives Guidelines 2022' to promote the adoption of new and green technologies in the laying of rural roads using waste and locally available materials under PMGSY.

Under the guidelines, states and Union Territories have to compulsorily use waste plastic in at least 70% length out of the eligible proposed length, involving the hot mix process in PMGSY roads, the minister said.

"The performance evaluation of rural roads constructed with waste plastic was carried out by seven institutes under the supervision of the IIT-Madras. It found that distresses such as ravelling, cracking, and potholes were significantly lower compared to conventional pavements," he said.

‘Marwari go back’ drive gains pace in T’gana

Union minister terms it a conspiracy to divide Hindu community

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The age-old adage ‘Jaha Na Pahuche Bailgaadi Waha Pahuche Marwari’ (Where bullock carts cannot reach, Marwaris do), which traditionally celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of traders from Rajasthan and Gujarat, is proving counterproductive in Telangana.

The ‘Marwari go back’ sentiment now echoes across several parts of the state.

While anti-Marwari feelings have existed among the trading community, especially among Arya Vysyas, they gained momentum following a recent altercation in Monda Market during vehicle parking between a group of Dalit youth and Marwadis.

This incident has elevated anti-Marwari feelings to new heights and ‘Marwari go back’ flyers are seen on social media and other discussions. In Amangal town of Ranga Reddy district, local traders called for a bandh on August 18 to protest Marwari dominance in trade and business activities. However, the strike was called off at the last minute following intervention by local leaders.

A roundtable organised in Hyderabad on the issue passed several resolutions, including demands that businesses and industries established by people from other states should provide 89% of jobs to locals. The forum also called for legislation to protect local businesses and prevent non-Telangana residents from purchasing land in the state. Additionally, it urged Telangana residents to refuse assistance to Gujarati and Rajasthani traders and boycott their goods.

BANDI SANJAY KUMAR
Union Minister

“This is a conspiracy against Marwari and Gujarati communities because they support the BJP and stand for protecting Sanatana Dharma.

“This is not about asking every Marwari to go back. We are only against the exploitation of our resources at the cost of petty traders. The government must ensure that outsiders cannot start businesses in towns and places with less than 5 lakh population. They don’t even employ locals,” Telangana Kranti Dal president Sangamreddy Prithviraj told *DH*.

Representatives of Arya Vysya, Viswabrahmin, and Viswakarma associations expressed concern that Marwaris are infiltrating Telangana villages and destroying their livelihoods.

However, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar came out strongly in support of the Marwari community. He criticised what he termed as ‘dramas’ staged by Congress, BRS and AIMIM leaders under the guise of communist ideology.

“What is wrong if Marwaris run businesses? Marwaris have never scrambled for political power, nor have they looted Telangana. They have created wealth through business and contributed significantly to GDP growth. They work for the preservation of Hindu Sanatana Dharma. Why should Marwaris leave Telangana?” he questioned.

Bandi Sanjay alleged that conspiracies have begun to divide the Hindu community.

He warned that if Congress and BRS continue the ‘Marwari Go Back’ movements, the BJP will launch large-scale agitations to protect Hindu caste-based occupations, specifically opposing mutton shops and dry-cleaning shops run by one particular group. He also announced that the ‘Rohingyas Go Back’ movement will be intensified.

Isro developing 40-storey high rocket for massive payload capacity

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Isro Chairman V Narayanan on Tuesday revealed that the space agency is developing a rocket as tall as a 40-storey building, capable of placing a 75,000 kg payload in low Earth orbit.

Delivering a convocation address at Osmania University in Hyderabad, Narayanan outlined Isro’s ambitious lineup of projects for this year, including the Navigation with Indian Constellation (NAVIC) satellite system and the N1 rocket. The agency also plans to deploy a 6,500 kg US communication satellite into orbit using Indian rockets.

Looking further ahead, he announced that by 2035, Isro aims to build a 52-tonne mass space station while simultaneously working on the Venus Orbiter mission.

V Narayanan

The iconic Tagore Auditorium at Osmania University provided a vibrant and celebratory backdrop on Tuesday as the 108-year-old institution hosted its 84th Convocation. Narayanan was conferred with a Doctor of Science (D.Sc) Honoris Causa degree, making him the 50th recipient of this honorary doctorate from the university.

Expressing his gratitude, Narayanan said he felt both elated and humbled to receive the doctorate degree on behalf of Isro’s 20,000 employees, known for their resilience and teamwork. In his speech, he fondly recalled the visionary Nizams’ idea to establish Osmania University, which now boasts a rich 108-year legacy.

Further highlighting Isro’s remarkable journey, Narayanan noted the dramatic evolution in rocket capabilities. “The first launcher that Abdul Kalam ji built had a 17-tonne lift-off mass, capable of placing 35 kg in low Earth orbit. Today, we are conceiving a rocket to place 75,000 kg in low Earth orbit, a rocket as tall as a 40-storey building,” he said.

Narayanan also shared details about astronaut Subashanhu Shukla’s mission to the International Space Station, originally scheduled for June 11. However, his team identified a critical rocket leakage just one day before launch, prompting a postponement to June 25, he added.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT

Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

NO: E-RD 22 GRC 2024 **Date:14.08.2025**

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Police Inspector, Office of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Economic Offence Wing, Central Crime Branch, Bengaluru, after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities are involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of the Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Special Officer and Competent Authority, IMA and Competent Authority for Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities, and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) hereby makes the following order, namely:

“ORDER”

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishment Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches movable properties as specified in the Annexure-1 and Anneuxure-2 to this order believed to have been acquired by the Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the Shruti Souharda Pattina Sahakari Niyamita and Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita and its other associated Entities and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishments, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishments is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the afore said movable properties from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure-1

Sl. No.	PF No.	Gold-Silver and other Ornaments	Weight in Grams	Market Value
1	47/2022	White stone gold ring	7.50	Market value will be ascertained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation
2		White and orange coral Gold ring	17.00	
3		The purple crystal gold ring	14.50	
4		The rope gold chain	48.50	
5		A plain gold chain	15.20	
6		Gold Lakshmi Dollar	4.10	
7		Two gold thali	5.30	
8		One gold Lakshmi kasu	1.80	
9		Two Ashtapatti gold balls	1.00	
10		Plain gold ring	1.40	
11		Navratna gold ring	9.90	
12		A pair of gold earrings with jade	5.90	
13		A pair of hanging earrings	10.40	
14		A pair of gold earrings with green stone	6.60	
15		A pair of gold Lakshmi earrings with jade	3.90	
16		A pair of earrings and hangings with white stone	7.30	
17		A gold ring with seven white stones	7.30	
18		A gold ring with blue stone	2.20	
19		A pair of red coral gold earrings	2.80	
20		A pair of red coral gold earrings	3.00	
21		A pair of red crystal gold earrings	4.40	
22		A pair of white crystal gold earrings	4.70	
23		A pair of plain gold earrings	2.90	
24		A pair of black beaded gold earrings	4.10	
25		A red stone gold dollar	0.70	
26		A plain gold necklace	34.40	
27		A gold bracelet	10.20	
28		A silver items (Chombu)	280.00	
29		A gold rope chain	31.90	
30		A flat gold chain	21.00	
31		Coral gold ring	6.00	
32		Plain gold ring	2.80	
33		White stone gold ring	3.30	
34		Three stone gold ring	6.90	
35		White stone gold dollar	1.60	
36	51/2022	A gold blackbeads chain	12.00	Market value will be ascertained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation
37		A pair of green stone gold bangles	56.00	
38		A long gold chain and dollar	30.00	
39		A pair of gold pearl earrings and jhumki	21.00	
40		A gold bangle kada	18.00	
41		Two plain gold bangles	19.00	
42		A short gold chain and dollar	14.00	
43		A gold Ganesha dollar	2.00	
44		A pair of gold lotus earrings	7.00	
45		A red and green stone gold earrings and jhumki	22.00	
46		A gold papadi bottu	12.00	
47		Pearls and gold balls chain	8.00	
48		A pair of gold red stone earrings	3.90	
49		7 gold rings of different designs	23.00	
50	53/2022	Two gold bangles	61.00	Market value will be ascertained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation
51		Two small bangles	43.30	
52		A gold pearl chain	15.50	
53		A gold chain with a small pendant	3.14	
54		A ruby-emerald pendant with gold chain	9.38	
55		A pearl green-red stone with a gold chain	4.86	
56		Uncut diamond with a gold chain	8.70	
57		Diamond pendant with a gold chain	2.78	
58		Diamond Pendant with Gold Chain	1.95	
59		Matal Gold Chain Plain	2.84	
60		A Diamond Pendant with Gold Chain	2.90	
61		A Rose Gold Chain with Pendant	7.70	
62		A Platinum & Gold Chain	6.60	
63		A fancy Gold Chain	4.40	
64		A Tortoise Pendant Gold Chain	5.96	
65		Diamond Pendant Gold Chain	6.15	
66		Black Leather with Gold Chain	10.08	
67		A Diamond Stud & Gold	11.08	
68		One gold chain & tops	3.80	
69		One tops with gold chain	12.20	
70		Total 5 rings mixed with gold & diamonds	16.50	
71		One dollar with gold chain	4.59	
72		4 pairs of ear tops	7.40	
73		Two pairs of nose rings	0.75	
74		Two Copper chains	14.40	
75		A Copper bracelet	26.29	
76	56/2022	One coral pearl necklace and a pair of coral earrings	26.00	Market value will be ascertained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation
77		One Chain	19.15	
78		One bracelet	8.80	
79		One chain dollar with American diamond	16.8	
80		One balls chain	33.00	
81		One black beads bracelet	11.80	
82		5 rings	32.00	
83		One yellow colored stone pendant	3.00	
84		One ruby & green colored jade ring	10.40	
85		One coral and pearl ring	6.20	
86		One white coral earring	8.50	
87		Yellow colored earring	4.00	
88		Plain earring	3.80	
89		Stone dollar	2.30	
90		Pearl & green colored earring	9.50	
91		Plastic bangle including ruby & green coral bangle	4.00	
92		Total 13 pairs of earring	47.00	
93		One silver mug	529.00	
94		One silver fancy plate	446.00	
95		One pair silver swan lamp	249.90	
96		One Pair silver plain lamp	68.00	
97		One Pair silver nakas bowl	74.00	
98		One silver kamakshi lamp	49.50	
99		One pair silver plain lamp	68.00	
100		One pair silver lamp	78.00	
101		One silver bowl	52.00	
102		Four Silver Coins	27.90	
103		One Silver Item (Bindige)	1028.0	
104		One Silver Lamp	1632.0	
105		One Silver Lamp	1596.0	
106		One Silver Plate	490.0	
107		One Silver Glass	119.0	
108		Black colored Rado chain watch.	-	
109		Golden cover Rado chain watch.	-	
110		Golden Cover Rado Chain Watch.	-	
111	56/2022	Rolex Chain Watch	-	Market value will be ascertained from the authorized valuer at the time of valuation
112		Rolex Gold Silver Color Chain Watch	-	
113		Isotte Silver Color Chain Watch	-	
114		Black Rado Chain Watch	-	
115		Shein Casio Silver Chain Watch	-	

Annexure-2

Sl. No	PF No. and Date	Remiter who deposited cash to the bank account of the competent authority	Competent Authority's Interim Bank Account	Cash in Rs.	Date
1	40/2022, 10-09-2022	Police Inspector, Economic Offences Wing, Central Crime Branch (CCB), Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-27	4412116157 State Bank of India, Vidhanasoudha Branch	1382150.00	23-06-2025
2	47/2022, 12-10-2022			3334680.00	23-06-2025
3	51/2022, 12-10-2022			517500.00	23-06-2025
4	53/2022, 12-10-2022			420000.00	23-06-2025
5	55/2022, 12-10-2022			537000.00	23-06-2025
6	56/2022, 12-10-2022			87030.00	23-06-2025
7	81/2023, 21-03-2023			338000.00	23-06-2025
			Total	**6616360.00**	

Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1, SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/JA/2301/2025-26

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A court rap for course correction

The Supreme Court's directive to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to publish detailed, district-wise lists of the 65 lakh voters in Bihar whose names were omitted from the draft rolls published on August 1 should be seen as an adverse comment on the Commission's functioning. During the hearings on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the EC had opposed the demand for publishing the deleted names. Voters' lists are public documents that cannot be kept inaccessible to the citizens. The Court has also directed the EC to make public the reason for each deletion and to publicise these deletions through the media.

The order should make the Commission realise that its decisions cannot come at the expense of accountability. This is important, considering that many of the Commission's recent moves, including the processes followed in the SIR in Bihar, have come under scrutiny. Conducting the roll revision in Bihar close to the state Assembly election has triggered apprehensions that it could be a targeted exercise to excise sections of voters. Initially, the Commission was not responsive to the complaints and suggestions. It published the draft voters' list on August 1, removing the names of 22.34 lakh people who it said were dead, 36.28 lakh who were "permanently shifted/absent" and 7.01 lakh others who had "enrolled at more than one place". They constitute about 8% of the voters' list. It was soon revealed that the list contained many anomalies. Many voters who were taken as dead were reported alive; many others who had valid IDs were not enumerated. Genuine voters were excluded because of the difficulty in procuring identity documents. The publication of the excluded names with the reasons for their deletion would give some transparency to the process.

The apex court's intervention in EC's Bihar roll revision brings some accountability back to the exercise

The Commission insisted in the court that only one of the 11 documents it prescribed would be accepted as the identity proof of a voter. It refused to consider Aadhaar as proof, though some of its prescribed documents did not have any greater sanctity than Aadhaar. The Court has now ordered that Aadhaar should be accepted as a valid document for the enumeration. It told the Commission: "...your manner has to be reasonable, has to give certain comfort to citizens." A full evaluation of the SIR may be possible only on its conclusion, but the Court's intervention has helped to remove some concerns over the revision. It needs to be noted that the Court is yet to rule on the constitutionality of the exercise.

POCSO: A worrying conviction gap

In just two years, Karnataka has seen a disturbing rise of nearly 26% cases registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, highlighting a growing threat to child safety. Data presented in the legislative council reveals that the state recorded 3,209 cases in 2022, which increased to 4,064 in 2024, and 2,544 in just the first half of 2025. While the increasing numbers point to a worrying prevalence of abuse, experts rightly note that greater awareness among parents, teachers, and children may also have led to more reporting – a positive sign. However, the conviction rate presents a grim picture. Of the 3,209 cases in 2022, as many as 1,562 ended in acquittal, with only 186 resulting in convictions. The primary reason cited is parental reluctance to pursue cases, often due to stigma, fear of identity exposure, or family pressure, especially when the perpetrator is a relative. Many parents prefer a compromise or private settlement over a legal battle, which undermines the spirit of POCSO, designed to ensure justice without societal or familial interference.

The judiciary has time and again held that compromise cannot override justice in cases of sexual assault. In *State of Madhya Pradesh vs Madanlal* (2015), the Supreme Court categorically ruled that sexual offences are crimes against society and not merely individual disputes that can be resolved by settlement. This principle should guide both trial courts and investigators when families withdraw complaints under duress. While the government has established district-level support systems, their effectiveness hinges on adequate funding, wider reach, and active involvement from child rights bodies.

Reluctance to pursue cases conflicts with the law's purpose. Extending support to the families is crucial

Beyond legal measures, the government must study the socio-economic backgrounds of the affected families. Do the most affected families come from economically weaker sections, where dependence on the accused or fear of social ostracism silences them? Understanding these patterns is crucial for targeted interventions, whether through financial assistance, long-term counselling, or community sensitisation programmes. Current initiatives, such as teaching children about 'good touch' and 'bad touch', are necessary, but awareness alone cannot be a substitute for accountability. The POCSO Act was meant to shield children and ensure swift justice. Yet, if acquittals continue to overshadow convictions, the law risks losing credibility. Karnataka must now commit itself not only to registering more cases but to ensuring that every child who dares to speak out is protected, every parent is supported, and every offender is held accountable. Justice for children, the most vulnerable group, cannot be optional; it must be inevitable.

TARIFFS AND AFTER

The rhetoric and real costs of trade wars

The Russian oil situation is still evolving. India must make its moves without antagonising the powers in play

VASU KRISHNAMURTHY

India misread the tariffs brought on by the United States and, at a broader level, the Trump administration. We were one of the first to approach the US on this matter, and we continued to believe that we would have a favourable deal till recently, given what we felt was a great rapport between Modi and Trump. Mainstream electronic media houses were complicit in driving this narrative. To understand why India got it wrong, it would be useful to connect two disparate data dots. Top that with India's misreading of Trump's desire to be seen as a peacemaker.

Let's look at the first irritant and its impact. India exports roughly $90 billion, paying approximately 2% tariffs currently, and imports roughly $45 billion at 12% tariffs. The trade deficit of $45 billion carries a tariff differential of $5 billion per year in India's favour after adjusting for exempted products. We should have seen this imbalance in America's trade deficit and tariffs long ago and proactively addressed this. Modi is now overhauling the tax rates in a bid to boost the economy. This is expected to cost $20 billion, four times the tariff differential India was enjoying.

The other irritant is oil imports. In 2021/22, India imported roughly 2.5 million barrels of oil every day. Under the tacit approval of the West, India's imports from Russia grew from 2% then to 40% today. India buys 45% of the exported oil from Russia, a growth of 1900% from pre-war levels. China buys the same percentage, a growth of 50% from pre-war levels. So why did India need this extra oil suddenly? It was because we processed this extra oil and sold it for a profit overseas. Therefore, the rhetoric is misplaced, as we are profiting and fuelling the Russian war machine. Predicting the flow of events, we should have scaled down our offtake back to the 2022 levels and with that, justify our need to fuel the Indian economy and keep inflationary tendencies in check. We have now started to do this, drawing a balance between the US and Russia.

Experts predict that the impact of tariffs at 25% is likely to be in the region of $11-12 billion per annum on tariffed goods and about 0.25% on GDP. In the earliest days of cranking up our imports of oil, the difference was around $30 a barrel, leading to a gain of $16 billion. That has now come down to around $5 a barrel after accounting for logistics, etc. The benefit we get is estimated

today to be only $3.5 billion, a delta of $8.5 billion from what we lose out on with tariffs.

Play the long game

Many commentators have suggested many responses, ranging from the knee-jerk to keeping the long-term in mind. The real issue is what we do now. There is no pattern in the madness. Why have the four treatments of the BRIC countries been different? Because there is a different playbook with each one. With Brazil, the US has a trade surplus. Why then, do they have tariffs of 50%, which is higher than China and equal to India? Bolsonaro? With China, 150% was brought down to 30%; here, it is about the rare earths. For the quantities required, the ecosystem is expensive, and the returns don't work out for a commercial operation. The CCP subsidised this for leverage and their long-term plans to pursue electric mobility and clean energy. This leverage on supplies was used to resolve the $650 billion of trade at stake between the US and China.

India made public its hypocritical treatment at the hands of the US, as it bought palladium, uranium, etc. from Russia. However, the reality is that US imports from Russia were at best $3 billion, down some 45% from the previous year. India's imports from Russia stood at $70 billion, almost twice what it imports from the US.

India must now not get caught in the whirlpool of its rhetoric. And it certainly must not seek to appease China and Russia in a hurry and on the rebound. One can expect that this is short-term. There are many moving parts – Russia and Ukraine could arrive at a truce as early as next month. India has already started to demonstrate it is willing to reduce its import of Russian oil while not displeasing Russia. The midterms in the US could go against Trump, and the US courts could reverse Trump's executive decisions. Importantly, Trump does not define the long-standing US relationship with India. Trump himself may not have a long-term view on this matter.

For the US, it seems clear. The average tariff on its imports has seen inflows of $28 billion, three times post these levies were collected in June. This aggregates to $350 billion. Add to this DOGE cuts and some others, and we have $500 billion being saved or added to the US treasury. This pays half its annual interest cost of $1 trillion, which, if left alone, is not sustainable. This is good for no one, as it is the world's biggest market by far.

In the short term, one sees no harm in subtly managing the relationships and dynamics at play and being practical. In the long term, anyway, as economist John Maynard Keynes said, we are all dead.

(The writer is the former managing director of a Tata Company and now runs a Bengaluru-headquartered corporate finance practice)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A bride-to-be turned Jhansi Rani

The blue Mysore crepe sari gave the thief away

KUMUDA PURUSHOTHAM

I was 23 when I lost my dear father. The grief-stricken family recovered enough to decide to marry me off within that year. It is believed that the *punya* of *kanyadaans* done within a year would reach the departed soul. The whole family set out in search of a suitable boy for me.

One morning, we received a postcard from my uncle in Chennai (then Madras), asking me to visit him immediately to meet an eligible boy, an engineer working in Assam who was to visit his parents in Chennai. Another uncle volunteered to accompany me and bring me back after two days. We were to travel by the Madras Mail.

My mother packed a couple of Kanjeevaram saris with matching jewellery, warning me to keep them safe, as we were travelling in an unreserved compartment at night and thefts were common. As the unlit, empty train glided in, and amid the people rushing to reserve seats for themselves with towels, I successfully entered a dark compartment and occupied the seat reserved by my uncle. He left with the empty water bottle in search of a tap.

As I sat clutching the suitcase, a gruff male voice growled, "Seats are meant for people, not suitcases. Place it on the upper berth." I complied. To satisfy myself, I rose and checked with my fingers for its presence in the dark several times. On my fifth check, my fingers felt nothing. Panic gripped me.

Wanting to inform my uncle, I pushed through the crowd in the dark and alighted. The person who alighted just before me was holding a suitcase similar to mine. I hesitated for a while, wondering if his suitcase looked like mine. Just then, from the corner of my eye, I spotted my navy-blue Mysore crepe saree peeping out from the suitcase. Some power propelled me--otherwise a timid person--to run after him, shouting that the suitcase was mine, and I snatched it. A couple of coolies who had heard me, ran after him and started beating him. The police arrived soon after and took my suitcase for further investigation. My uncle, who had arrived by then with the filled water bottle, pleaded with the police officer about the purpose and urgency of our Madras visit. The fatherly figure he was, the policeman quickly completed all the formalities and allowed us to proceed.

The next morning, word spread about my bravery in the neighbourhood, and people dropped in to catch a glimpse of Jhansi Rani, who had single-handedly caught a railway thief red-handed!

Epilogue: In the evening, I visited the eligible boy's house, only to be told that he had to postpone his visit. However, a surprise awaited me when I returned home. Another eligible groom had made an unscheduled visit to Bengaluru. We met, and it clicked. Our marriage was held before the stipulated one year.

As I type this, my life partner of many decades is reading over my shoulder. A confirmed rationalist, he remarked, "Marriages are made in heaven."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CEC not helping to uphold the credibility of electoral process

Apropos 'Combative CEC offers few answers' (Aug 19), the tone of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar while addressing the media on Sunday to respond to allegations made by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi about voter list anomalies in Bengaluru's Mahadevapura constituency leaves much to be desired. The Election Commission's general conduct in responding to the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha was, at the very least, inappropriate. The CEC appeared to follow the policy of "offence is the best defence" by making broad denials, taking a combative position, and making unnecessary comments. He unabashedly asked Gandhi to tender an apology if he couldn't produce proof of his charges. The Commission objected to Gandhi using the slogan "vote *chori*," terming it improper. With such blatant and open support for the ruling party and a discriminatory stance towards opposition parties, the CEC is not helping to uphold the credibility of India's electoral process, which is globally regarded as a festival of democracy.
M Basavaraj, Davangere

Aggressive stance

Apropos 'Oppn targets EC again' (Aug 19), while it is undeniable that the electoral rolls are flawed and the Election Commission must rectify them, the opposition, especially Rahul Gandhi, is taking an unduly aggressive stance—threatening that EC officials would be jailed or the institution dismantled if Congress came to power. Such threats to a constitutional body are deeply objectionable. Constructive criticism supported by credible evidence is welcome, but personal attacks undermine democratic institutions. Although errors are inevitable in a vast democracy with nearly 100 crore voters and lakhs of polling officials, they must be corrected. However, reckless remarks against the EC are unjustified.
N Sadhasiva Reddy, Bengaluru

Ensure RTE

Apropos 'Student enrolment decreases in govt schools' (Aug 18), the decline in admissions to government schools is concerning. The government must investigate the reasons behind poor admissions, take remedial actions, and ensure that it works towards fulfilling the right to education for every child. It must implement measures to attract more admissions and provide quality education free of cost.
A K Shariff, Mysuru

Diplomacy key

Apropos 'Ukraine must make deal, Russia big power: Trump', (Aug 17), US President Donald Trump's remark is a stark reminder of the bullying habits that refuse to die down. Such a stance is unbecoming of a 'peace negotiator'. Peace can only be achieved through meaningful dialogue among sovereign nations that honour the aspirations of their people. Peace should be achieved through genuine diplomacy, rather than bullying.
Jose Abraham, Kottayam (Kerala)

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

I want to tell Tejashwi Yadav (RJD leader) that there is still time. Be cautious of 'Jaichands' (a metaphor for traitors) around you, otherwise, you will see very bad results in the elections. Now, how wise you are will be determined by the election results.

Tej Pratap Yadav, Former Bihar Minister and ousted RJD leader

I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself.

Oscar Wilde

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Judicial fairness and public trust

The appointment of judges with a political past can diminish faith in the neutrality of the institution

JEHOSH PAUL

The Supreme Court collegium's recommendation of elevating advocate Aarti Sathe, a former spokesperson of the Maharashtra BJP, as a judge of the Bombay High Court, has reignited an important conversation about the judiciary's independence in India. On paper, Aarti Sathe is fully qualified. She meets the constitutional criteria, and she formally resigned from her party posts over a year ago. Yet, the reactions to her elevation reflect deeper anxieties. In an era of political polarisation and executive assertiveness, the question is not simply whether a judge is competent or legally eligible, but whether the appointment process inspires public trust.

Historically, India has not been rigid about drawing a sharp line between politics and the judiciary. Justice V R Krishna Iyer served as a minister in Kerala's first Communist government before emerging as one of the most respected judges in the Supreme Court. The country has seen many other judges who have held political offices.

What distinguishes the present moment is not merely that someone with a political past has been appointed. It is the broader context of how judicial appointments are being handled. Over the last few years, the Union government has selectively stalled or refused collegium recommendations without offering public reasons. Names like senior advocates Saurabh Kirpal, Aditya Sondhi, and John Sathyan have been repeatedly withheld, reportedly over ideological discomfort or past remarks. Against this backdrop, the smooth elevation of a recently active BJP functionary invites scrutiny of the process itself.

The Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, endorsed by the United Nations, underscore that judges must avoid not only impropriety but also its appearance. The United States Supreme Court observed in Offutt v. United States (1954) that "justice must satisfy the appearance of justice". The legitimacy of the judiciary, in other words, rests not just on its independence, but on whether it is widely seen to be independent. In Aarti Sathe's case, even if she were to act with complete fairness, the proximity of her political past to her judicial appointment risks blurring the line between adjudication and affiliation in the public imagination.

This is not a uniquely Indian dilemma. The US offers a striking counterpoint. There, judicial appointments are overtly political, but transparently so. Nominees to the US Supreme Court are publicly vetted and confirmed largely based on their ideological leanings, and senators vote on their elevation accordingly. The process reflects a certain democratic maturity, where ideological preferences are acknowledged, debated, and subjected to institutional checks.

India, on the other hand, aspires to insulate the judiciary from overt ideological influence. Yet, it increasingly finds itself caught in a paradox: the process remains opaque, and decisions are selectively filtered by an invisible hand of executive preference. This quiet and unaccountable influence, combined with the absence of transparency, makes the Indian model far more vulnerable to public mistrust.

When the executive holds sway

The larger risk is that of normalising a silent shift in how the Bench is composed. Once the judiciary begins to be seen as an extension of the executive's patronage network, litigants may hesitate to bring politically sensitive matters before the courts. Lawyers may begin to view political networking as a more viable path to the Bench than legal distinction. The separation of powers, a foundational principle of the Constitution, could be eroded not through overt constitutional change but through subtle, cumulative distortion.

In light of this, one reform worth considering is a cooling-off period between active political roles and eligibility for judicial appointment. A mandatory gap of three to five years could help create a clearer break between political loyalty and judicial office. This would not eliminate all concerns, but would provide a basic procedural safeguard, allowing former politicians to re-establish a professional identity outside of partisan affiliations before entering the judiciary.

It is worth recalling that the Supreme Court itself rejected the National Judicial Appointments Commission, holding that judicial appointments must be protected from executive interference. But that principle cannot survive in spirit if the executive continues to use its residual powers to selectively approve or block names.

The appointment of a former party spokesperson is a telling example of how institutional norms are evolving. The question is not whether one individual will act fairly, but whether the system will remain fair to all. Judicial independence and legitimacy are sustained not just by legal safeguards but by public belief in the neutrality of the institution. The law may allow such appointments. But the Constitution, and the democracy it supports, demand more.

(The writer is a lawyer and research consultant)

AI on the campaign trail: When technology blurs the political message

NEELATPHAL CHANDA AND ISHAYU GUPTA

It was a pleasant evening in Bengaluru when a political campaign suddenly surfaced on a social media feed. The post, shared by someone with clear ideological leanings, appeared at first glance to be heavily generated content. With its sharp graphics, deep colour tones and visuals that seemed to be synthetically generated, the production was designed to mimic reality. Every word was carefully scripted, every cadence unnaturally smooth. Yet, despite the polish, the video left the viewer oddly unmoved–because it lacked any grounding in lived reality.

In the months leading up to the next round of elections, Indian politics has been quick to embrace the newest tool in the arsenal of persuasion: artificial intelligence. The Election Commission's recent advisory to political parties—directing them to clearly label AI-generated and synthetic content—signals both the scale of adoption and the risks it carries.

On the surface, the technology is impressive. A party worker no longer needs an entire creative team to produce a rousing campaign video; a few prompts to an AI tool can generate a lifelike speech, a catchy jingle, or a digitally enhanced rally scene. For campaign strategists, AI offers scale and speed unmatched by traditional methods. Messages can be tailored to specific voter segments, rebranded overnight, and pushed across platforms before the next news cycle ends. But therein lies the problem.

The very tools that allow rapid, low-cost production also make it easier to blur the line between authentic political communication and manufactured spectacle. AI can seamlessly alter faces, voices, and events, creating material that appears real but never actually happened. Without clear labelling, voters may consume—and be influenced by—synthetic content without realising it. The danger lies not only in the spread of falsehoods but also in the erosion of trust in all campaign material. When every image or clip could be artificial, citizens may begin to doubt even genuine messages.

The EC is right to insist on disclaimers such as "AI-generated" being prominently displayed. Yet enforcement will be difficult, particularly given the decentralised nature of digital campaigning. A recent Lokniti-CSDS study on the 2024 elections found that most campaign songs on YouTube—whether for the Congress or the BJP—came from independent supporter channels rather than official party handles. In such a fragmented environment, accountability becomes elusive. A deepfake speech or AI-crafted smear can go viral before any fact-check catches up, often amplified by enthusiastic supporters unconcerned with accuracy.

Kerala's recent experiments—where political actors hired vloggers and digital influencers—show that the digital battleground is no longer limited to party offices. This ecosystem thrives on engagement, not verification. AI, with its capacity to churn out endless variations of tailored messages, fits seamlessly into this model. But in politics, where credibility is currency, that convenience carries a cost.

There is also a subtler, longer-term effect. When voters are bombarded with AI-crafted content, the tone of political communication shifts. Campaigns risk becoming more about style than substance, more about emotional hooks than policy clarity. Carefully constructed manifestos are replaced by algorithm-optimised slogans; reasoned debates give way to viral clips. Over time, this hollows out democratic conversation, leaving citizens with a diet of polished, persuasive but shallow political messaging.

Technology will not roll back. The responsibility now lies with political parties to use AI transparently and with voters to demand that transparency. Labelling AI-generated content is not a bureaucratic formality; it is a safeguard for informed choice. If political actors allow the rush for digital dominance to erode that clarity, they will find that the short-term gains of persuasion may come at the long-term cost of trust.

The danger is not simply that voters will believe false information. It is that, over time, they may stop believing any information at all. When every speech could be faked, when every video could be staged, trust in the political process itself is at stake.

A functioning democracy depends on more than just the act of voting—it depends on an informed electorate making choices based on clear, credible information. That clarity is not optional; it is the foundation of the democratic contract between leaders and citizens.

The temptation to use AI for instant political gains will be hard to resist. In a crowded media environment, the speed and volume AI offers can be decisive. But if parties prioritise digital dominance over communicative clarity, they may find the long-term costs outweigh the short-term benefits.

Trust, once lost, is not easily rebuilt. Political actors would do well to remember that in the age of AI, every piece of synthetic content they deploy carries two messages: the one they intend and the unspoken signal about their willingness to blur the line between truth and fabrication.

As India approaches another electoral season, the choice is clear. AI can be a powerful ally in reaching voters—if used with honesty and restraint. Without that restraint, it risks becoming a weapon that erodes the very foundation of the democratic conversation. The machine-generated content often uses politically charged statements without marrying them with a deep understanding of local realities; the results feel hollow. Clarity, in politics as in life, is not a luxury. It is a responsibility. In the AI age, meeting that responsibility is the only way to ensure that technology serves democracy rather than undermines it.

(Neelatphal is an assistant professor and co-project director (ICSSR-JJM), Department of Media Studies, at Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru, and Ishayu is with the University of Leeds, UK)

Chikungunya, which can disable victims for years, is spreading rapidly, including in China and other places that have not seen it before

STEPHANIE NOLEN

An Aedes aegypti mosquito, one of two species that transmit chikungunya, at a laboratory of the Centre for Parasitological and Vector Studies in Buenos Aires. NYT

Climate change fuels chikungunya surge globally

A mosquito-borne virus that can leave infected people debilitated for years is spreading to more regions of the world, as climate change creates new habitats for the insects that carry it.

More than 240,000 cases of the virus, chikungunya, have been reported around the world so far this year, including 200,000 cases in Latin America and 8,000 in China, the first cases ever reported there. Chinese authorities have launched an urgent effort to try to stifle the virus with public health measures that evoke the response to Covid-19.

Chikungunya is not circulating in the United States or Canada, but cases have been reported in France and Italy. The disease is endemic in Mexico.

The World Health Organization is warning that current transmission patterns resemble a global outbreak that infected 500,000 people 20 years ago, contributing to a surge of new disabilities.

Although it is rarely fatal, chikungunya causes excruciating and prolonged joint pain and weakness.

"You have people who were working, with no disabilities, and from one day to the next, they cannot even type on a phone, they can't hold a pen, a woman cannot even hold a knife to be able to cook for her family," said Dr. Diana Rojas Alvarez, who leads chikungunya work at the WHO. "It really impacts quality of life and also the economy of the country."

What is chikungunya, and how dangerous is it?

Chikungunya is a virus from the same family as Zika and dengue fever. Two different species of mosquitoes, Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus, transmit chikungunya. Between four and eight days after a bite, a person can develop symptoms including fever, joint pain and a rash.

Unlike dengue and Zika infections, the majority of which are asymptomatic, chikungunya sickens most people it infects. In rare instances, chikungunya can kill young children and older adults.

"Fatality levels are low, but we really care about chikungunya because it leaves people with months or potentially years of debilitating pain," said Scott Weaver, an expert and the scientific director of the Galveston National Laboratory in Texas.

He added: "That has not only an individual toll but also a social one, with strain on health care systems, economic impact, the demand on caregivers, a lot of things."

Chikungunya is often misdiagnosed as dengue, which causes the same symptoms at first.

Dengue symptoms usually clear up in a week or two; chikungunya symptoms become chronic in as many as 40% of people infected, with debilitating joint pain lasting for months or years.

Between 2005 and 2007, more than two-thirds of all the disabilities — including those caused by cancer, arthritis and diabetes — reported in India were the result of a chikungunya outbreak that was sweeping through the country.

Who is at risk?

By the end of 2024, transmission of the virus had been reported in 199 countries, on every continent except Antarctica.

The WHO estimates that 5.6 billion people live in areas where the mosquitoes that transmit the virus can live. These mosquitoes are daytime biters, feeding on people who are at work, at school or on a bus.

Climate change is driving the spread of chikungunya-carrying mosquitoes in two ways. A warmer, wetter world provides more suitable habitat. And extreme weather events can cause more breeding in floods—or displace people, who cluster in areas with poor water and sanitation supply.

The Aedes albopictus mosquito has markedly expanded its presence in Europe in recent years: The insect has been found in Amsterdam and Geneva. In South America, Aedes aegypti carries the virus and thrives in low-income neighborhoods in rapidly growing cities with patchy water systems.

"In the U.S. I don't think we're going to see massive outbreaks of chikungunya" because people in warm areas use air conditioning and spend a lot of time indoors, Weaver said. "But in places like China and the Southern Cone of South America, the warming temperatures are going to have a big impact because people don't stay inside with air conditioners in their houses or their workplaces. They don't even like to screen their windows in many parts of Asia and South America."

People seem to become immune to chikungunya after an infection and so, if it sweeps through an area, it can be a couple of decades before there are enough immunologically vulnerable people to sustain another outbreak. But in places such as India and Brazil, populations are so large that the virus is circulating constantly.

Many countries in Africa that did not have circulating chikungunya, such as Chad and Mali, have reported cases in the past few years.

Is there a vaccine?

There are two vaccines for chikungunya, but they are produced in limited quantities for use mainly by travelers from industrialized countries. The newest vaccine, made by Bavarian Nordic, sells for about $270 per shot in the United States, a price well beyond the reach of a country such as Paraguay, which has had huge chikungunya outbreaks and would ideally vaccinate much of the population. Brazil's Butantan Institute is working on making a lower-cost version of another vaccine.

Neither vaccine currently has the kind of WHO recommendation that might lead to accelerated development of an affordable product. Doing a clinical trial of the kind the agency requires is difficult: Chikungunya outbreaks happen so fast that they're over before the research can begin. Rojas said the WHO's vaccine committee was reviewing chikungunya outbreak data to consider options for a possible recommendation.

The best protection against chikungunya is not to get bitten.

The next step is to reduce mosquito breeding sites. In China, public health officials are going house to house to look for stagnant water.

Surveillance for chikungunya is still weak. Rojas said the WHO was trying to untangle how much of the current surge was new cases and how much was transmission that was already occurring but poorly tracked or reported. There is a molecular diagnostic test that screens for Zika, dengue and chikungunya at the same time, but more countries need to adopt it.

Disease surveillance globally has been weakened by the abrupt cuts in funding from the U.S. government, which was supporting much of this work in low-income countries.

Chikungunya was first identified in Tanzania in the 1950s, and caused sporadic outbreaks in Africa and Asia in the next decades. But the virus didn't attract much attention from public health specialists until 2004. That year, an outbreak in Kenya spread to La Réunion, a French territory in the Indian Ocean. There, chikungunya raged through the population: One-third of the people on the island were infected.

That same strain of the virus made its way to South Asia, and caused huge outbreaks in India from 2005 to 2007. And from there travelers took chikungunya around the world. By late 2013, the virus had made its way to the Caribbean and once again began to tear through a population that lacked immunity. There were 1.8 million reported infections in the region by the end of 2015. Chikungunya then made its way down through South America — and a new strain from Angola was introduced to Brazil at the same time — and the two have been circulating since then. Chikungunya cases in South America have risen steadily since 2023, alongside a surge in dengue cases.

The New York Times

The plastic trap of menstrual hygiene

AISHWARYA AND A M JOSE

In India's booming menstrual hygiene market—projected to reach Rs 6,000 crore by 2026—sanitary pads have been recast from essential health items into lifestyle commodities. Glossy advertisements promise "ultra-comfort", "leak-lock" protection, and "odour control", presenting pads as symbols of modernity and empowerment. Yet beneath this polished branding lies a troubling paradox: products marketed as symbols of safety and dignity often undermine women's health, environmental sustainability and financial wellbeing.

Sanitary pads contain components whose risks remain invisible to consumers. Superabsorbent Polymers (SAPs), petroleum-based compounds that enable the "dry feel", can cause skin irritation and allergic reactions. Chlorine-bleached pulp produces dioxins — pollutants linked to endocrine disruption and cancer. Synthetic fragrances, promoted for "freshness", often contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as benzene and toluene, known for respiratory and hormonal toxicity.

These risks are amplified by the permeable nature of vaginal tissue, which allows chemicals entry into the bloodstream. Yet most users remain unaware, equating branding with safety.

India generates nearly 12.3 billion used pads each year, producing more than 113,000 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste. The sanitary pad market, valued at $825.3 million in 2024, is expected to reach $1.76 billion by 2033, according to IMARC Group. Pad usage had surged from 15% in 2010 to almost 78% by 2019–2021.

While this expansion reflects a public health gain, it also deepens the ecological burden. Pads are composed of up to 90% plastic and may take 500–800 years to decompose. Without systematic disposal, waste accumulates in landfills, drains, and water bodies.

Sanitation workers, many from marginalised communities, handle used pads without protective gear, exposing them to pathogens and toxic fumes. Low-temperature burning in rural incinerators releases dioxins and furans — pollutants often more harmful than the waste itself. A product designed for private comfort thus imposes hidden collective costs, undermining Sustainable Development Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production.

Affordability adds another layer of exclusion. Premium pads can cost up to 35% more than generic versions. While government schemes such as Suvidha (Re 1 pads) and the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme seek to address the gap, coverage remains inadequate.

As a result, "period poverty" persists. Many women still rely on unsafe substitutes — cloth, newspapers, even ash — practices linked to infections and reproductive complications. Over a lifetime, pad costs weigh heavily on low-income households. Studies show that affordability directly affects school and work attendance, reinforcing gender inequities.

Sustainable alternatives do exist. Menstrual cups made of medical-grade silicone can last up to a decade. Reusable cloth pads are washable and durable. Biodegradable pads made from banana fibre, bamboo, or corn starch offer additional eco-friendly options.

Yet adoption remains low due to stigma, lack of drying space, water scarcity and cost barriers. Without awareness campaigns, subsidies, and government procurement, these alternatives remain marginalised — a missed opportunity for both health and sustainability.

Regulation has lagged behind market growth. For years, sanitary pads were treated as medical devices but lacked binding standards or ingredient disclosure. The Medical Textiles (Quality Control) Order, 2023, now requires manufacturers to obtain Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) licences and comply with tests for dermatological safety, chemical residues, and microbial load.

This is progress, but enforcement is weak. A loophole exempts self-help groups, leaving the poorest women exposed to weaker safety standards. Moreover, even BIS-certified pads are not required to list all ingredients on packaging. Consumers remain unaware whether their pads contain SAPs, chlorine-bleached pulp, or VOCs. Certification without transparency sustains the illusion of safety. This opacity is often rationalised by popularity — the assumption that if perfumed, ultra-thin pads dominate the market, they must be safe. The illusion of "premium protection" commodifies menstruation while sidelining essential issues of safety, dignity, and autonomy. True menstrual equity requires more than branding. It demands:

- Stronger regulation with full ingredient disclosure,
- Waste governance that classifies pads as biohazard waste,
- Public investment in sustainable alternatives through subsidies and awareness, and
- Integration of menstrual literacy into education to reduce stigma.

(Aishwarya is a PhD student, and Member-Indian Health Economics and Policy Association; Jose is professor and head, Amity School of Economics, Amity University, Haryana)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 1975

'Protection' for consumers

Cochin, August 19

The Centre proposed to bring forward a comprehensive enactment to bring down crimes and tyrannies against the consumer, Union Minister of State for Industry and Civil Supplies A. C. George told newsmen here today. A Fair Trade Practices Bill was being drafted in this connection. He said the Bill would be modeled after analogous enactments existing in England and Scandinavian countries, but in its deterrent penal provisions, it would be the first of its kind in the world. He termed the Bill the Magna Carta of the Indian consumer.

25 YEARS AGO: AUGUST 2000

Cabinet approves ordinance on right to information

Bangalore, Aug 19

The State Government has come out with a Right to Information Ordinance to ensure openness, transparency and accountability in administration by providing for participation of people in the administration. The ordinance has been sent to Governor V S Rama Devi for her assent. The proposed ordinance, approved by the Cabinet, would make Karnataka the fourth state to go in for such a legislation after Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Goa.

OASIS | SRI M

Accessing the higher mind

Humankind is in a kind of hypnotic trance - hypnotised by beliefs, situations and the attractions of the outside world. To de-hypnotise and be out of this limited mind and the routine thought process, is the way to set the mind free. Thinking and being rational is necessary for day to day living. However, there are dimensions of the mind that operate beyond our ordinary logical thinking. If we can extricate ourselves from our routine thinking, from the conditioning thoughts that are in our mind, and be open to receiving what is beyond the three-dimensional world, perhaps we can tap infinite potential that is waiting to be explored.

The whole science of meditation is a way to go beyond the surface of the mind, explore the deeper recesses and come up with greater abilities and understanding. Prayer is also a way to transcend the mind. It is a beautiful psychological exercise where deep down you want to come out of the circumstances that are limiting your progress. You discover that the mind with its present conditioned capacity cannot do it, and you try to appeal to the higher mind to bring about a breakthrough so that you can reach what normally cannot be reached.

You can call that higher potential of the mind, God or anything that you want. What you are trying to do is to get out of the mind's limitations, grow and move towards the limitless.

Imagination is one capacity, exclusive to the human being.

I think when the Bible says God breathed the breath of life into Adam, it is talking about the capacity to visualise. It is this imagination that has made the human mind improve, evolve and reach this state.

Albert Einstein says that imagination is more important than even knowledge. Because the secret is, if you can visualise an idea that you want to achieve, as if it has happened, then sooner or later, it becomes a reality.

The secret of visualisation is to believe and visualise, what one wants. When this is done, the subconscious mind carries it to the super-conscious mind. The super-conscious mind responds by giving ideas to the brain to do what it should to achieve that goal. So, it is an ascension of one's plans to a higher sphere and a descent of a blessing or energy to the ordinary mind to achieve what it normally could not. One must first set the mind free from its conditioning and affirm that one's knowledge and understanding of any situation or oneself, is not perfect. When the mind is open, and when there is the great desire to achieve something then the channels for achieving it are opened.

Centre asks states to undertake sterilisation programme for stray dogs

Govt revises existing scheme for birth control and immunisation

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Centre on Tuesday said the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has issued an advisory to states asking urban local bodies to establish Animal Birth Control units and undertake large-scale sterilisation programmes covering at least 70% of stray dogs.

Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, S P Singh Baghel informed Lok Sabha that the sterilisation programme is an ongoing process being implemented by urban local bodies. As per the advisory issued by the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to states, reiterated that sterilisation of stray dogs is central to dog population management, he said.

The Minister said the Ministry has revised the existing Scheme for Birth Control and Immunisation of stray dogs and stray cats, which is being implemented through the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) from the current financial year.

Financial assistance of up to Rs 800 per dog and Rs 600 per cat is provisioned for SPCAs (Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and local bodies to conduct ABC (Animal Birth Control) programmes.

The AWBI is providing assistance for the establishment of small animal shelters up to Rs 15 lakh and Rs 27 lakh for large animals to urban local bodies and SPCA and recognised Animal Welfare Organisations.

In addition, under the Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme (LHDCP), the sub-component Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD) provides States with support for the procurement of anti-rabies vaccines.

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), under the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP), is implementing the National Action Plan for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination (NAPRE), launched on 28.09.2021, with multiple initiatives aimed at achieving rabies elimination, the Minister said.

He also said that the issue of stray dogs falls under the purview of state governments, with local bodies mandated to manage related matters. To ensure humane and effective dog population management, the Central Government has framed the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. These Rules align with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards for the Capture–Neuter–Vaccinate–Release (CNVR) approach.

Fatehpur tomb land dispute sparks fresh row

LUCKNOW, DHNS: A petition has been filed in the civil court in Uttar Pradesh's Fatehpur district claiming ownership of the land on which a tomb stands, a site that has become the latest bone of contention between Hindus and Muslims.

Saffron outfits had, a few days ago, stormed into the premises housing the tomb and ransacked two 'mazars' (shrines), triggering communal tension in the Abunagar area of the district.

According to reports, Vijay Kumar Singh filed a petition in the civil court contending that the land had been purchased by his father in 1970 and that the land records showed a temple once existed there.

Singh further claimed in his petition that the caretaker of the tomb, in alleged connivance with some lawyers, had the land transferred in the name of the tomb in 2012 through an ex parte decree.

He sought the quashing of the court order and restoration of the land in his name. The court admitted his petition and fixed August 30 for hearing the matter.

The tomb has become a major point of dispute between the two communities, with Hindus claiming it was a temple demolished during the Muslim rule, while Muslims assert the tomb is more than 200 years old.

SC rejects NCPCR plea against Muslim girl's marriage

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to entertain a plea by the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's 2022 judgment allowing a Muslim girl to enter into a valid marriage upon attaining puberty. Notably, the age of attaining puberty is 15 years according to applicable personal laws in Islam.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan questioned the locus standi of the child rights panel and dismissed the special leave pleas.

The court held that the NCPCR was a stranger to the litigation and had no locus standi to challenge the High Court's judgment.

"If the High Court, in exercise of its power under Article 226, seeks to extend protection to two individuals, the NCPCR has no locus standi to challenge such an order," the bench said.

The court also emphasised that romantic relationships between persons on the verge of majority age should be seen differently.

"There is Pocso Act, which takes care of the penal cases, but there are romantic cases also where teenagers on the verge of majority run away, where there are genuine romantic cases, they want to get married, don't read such cases the same as criminal cases. We have to differentiate between criminal cases and this," the bench said.

Dismissing the plea, the court opined that no question of law arose in the matter.

The court also sought to highlight the trauma faced by the girl who loves a boy, sent to jail, because her parents filed a Pocso case to cover the elopement.

The NCPCR contended that the personal laws were being claimed as a defence to commit criminal acts in the way of young girls being married off.

The High Court, however, had held that such a marriage would not be void in terms of Section 12 of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006.

Properties of two terrorists attached in Anantnag, Baramulla

SRINAGAR, PTI: Properties of two active terrorists were attached in Anantnag and Baramulla districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said.

In Anantnag, the police attached the land belonging to active terrorist Adil Hussain Thoker, while an orchard of designated terrorist Asif Maqbool Dar, who is presently operating from across the border, was attached in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, a police spokesman said.

Anantnag Police, in its continued crackdown on the terror ecosystem, has attached immovable property belonging to an active terrorist under relevant provisions of law, the spokesman said.

The land situated at the Guree area of Bijbehara, in the south Kashmir district, and owned by Thoker, who is an active terrorist, has been attached under Section 83 of CrPC, he said.

The spokesman said the action has been taken in connection with an FIR registered under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Egress and Internal Movement (Control) Ordinance (EIMCO) Act.

'Lawful measure'

This attachment is part of lawful measures aimed at dismantling the support structure of terrorism in the district. Such actions will continue against individuals found aiding or involved in unlawful and anti-national activities, the spokesman said.

"In a major step towards dismantling terror networks and their support structures, Srinagar Police has attached orchard land measuring three kanals and 18 marlas, valued at approximately one crore, belonging to designated terrorist Asif Maqbool Dar," the police spokesperson said.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU A WHAT?!
BOSS, YOU ALREADY SAID I ACED THE FOONMAN CONTRACT!
ALL I WANTED WAS A LOUSY TIP!
Not bad 10%
Good 20%
Excellent 30%
Other (Bonus?)
I HAVE TO ADMIT, YOUR BONUS REQUESTS HAVE GOTTEN MORE CREATIVE!
5-15

Hagar The Horrible

I'M SICK, HELGA! WHAT WILL MAKE ME FEEL BETTER?
WE GOT A NOVEMBER SNOW OVERNIGHT! YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RAKE THE LEAVES TODAY!
I'M CURED!

Beetle Bailey

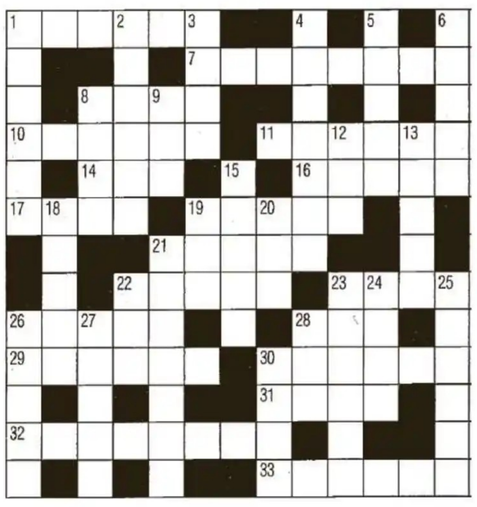
I DON'T SEE A THING WRONG WITH YOU, BEETLE. YOU CAN GO BACK TO WORK
DANG! I WAS HOPING FOR A MORE FAVORABLE DIAGNOSIS
GREG + MORT WALKER 5/2

Peanuts

LET'S JUST SIT HERE FOR AWHILE, AND ENJOY THE VIEW...
MAYBE WE'LL BE LUCKY, AND SEE A WHALE SWIM BY...
NO, OLIVIER, WHALES VERY SELDOM COME UP ON SHORE, AND ATTACK YOU

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12229



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 The military policeman carped unreasonably (6)
7 The dogs' irrational slur about an actress (8)
8 Fuss created on one's own, for nothing (2-2)
10 No cert, perhaps, but it has noteworthy potential (6)
11 Wherein shoppers can possibly read about some case (6)
14 Fishy contribution to free love (3)
16 It could be part of a torn wrapper (5)
17 In two ways we are female (4)
19 To consume a half of beer is lovely! (5)
21 At soccer, there may be a penalty for being one (5)
22 Sellers, perhaps, taking a look around the East End (5)
23 Annoyed expression of a traitor coming to bad end (4)
26 Right to give out or pay money (5)
28 Low way of working on an inside job (3)
29 Speaker an artist may root out, possibly? (6)
30 The bird on the wharf (6)
31 Learn in the army (4)
32 Scratch race possibly slow to get out of (8)
33 Touchingly tentative exploratory remark (6)

DOWN
1 Save a terrible curse for closing time (6)
2 Are old witches creditable ones? (6)
3 One not included in a pilot scheme (4)
4 Getaway cars crashing by! (7)
5 Summarise the right way to raise the pace (5)
6 Rosie's willowy form (5)
8 Family plant? (4)
9 Derek misled? (3)
12 In a race, could be about half a mile clear (3)
13 Ideal woman? (5)
15 It's shorter than a continental quilt (5)
18 Do penguins have such wings? (5)
19 It's coming to rest (3)
20 By finishing with sandpaper (3)
21 They're made with many indirect routes (7)
22 Tip into a hole (3)
23 Give no date incorrectly (6)
24 Crowd noise at the Den? (4)
25 Robert acted like Elizabeth (6)
26 A snack in the car? (5)
27 One fixture much like another (5)
28 She has the master key (3)
30 He can cook some spinach effectively (4)

ACROSS
1 Triple (6)
7 Highest point (8)
8 Eyelid sore (4)
10 Baby's soft shoe (6)
11 Adjust, accustom (6)
14 Flipper (3)
16 Place to stay on holiday (5)
17 Complete extent (4)
19 Golf term (5)
21 Turret (5)
22 Senior member (5)
23 Pace (4)
26 Edges of a roof (5)
28 Distant (3)
29 Slumbers (6)
30 Harbour for yachts (6)
31 Minute particle (4)
32 Theoretical (8)
33 Railway locomotive (6)

DOWN
1 Clans (6)
2 Interrupt (4,2)
3 Fencing sword (4)
4 One more (7)
5 Outrider (5)
6 Gem (5)
8 Settee (4)
9 Monetary unit (3)
12 Plaything (3)
13 Courage (5)
15 Strength (5)
18 Flower part (5)
19 Young male (3)
20 Information (3)
21 More than is required (2,5)
22 Scottish river (3)
23 Garment (6)
24 Light haircut (4)
25 Inscribed plate (6)
26 Prose composition (5)
27 Poetry (5)
28 Excess flesh (3)
30 Close friend (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12228

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Shoot 6, A-isle 9, Downing 10, A-B-ide 11, D-Ouse 12, Astor 13, M-on-arch 15, LED 17, Oban 18, Archer 19, Go-U-da 20, Olive-R 22, Isla 24, Nor 25, Declaim 26, N-ever 27, Debar 28, Puppy 29, Managed 30, Aspel 31, Rents.
DOWN: 2, Hob-nob 3, Odd man 4,Toe (leg end) 5, Gnash 6, Andorra 7, Igor 8, Les-see 12, Acto-r 13, Mo-r-on 14, Nadir 15, L-hasA 16, Dr-(m)e(n)-am 18, Adder 19, General 21, L-overs 22, Ill-ude 23, Limp-et 25, Dela-y 26, Name 28, Per.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Grabs 6, Verge 9, Romania 10, Stain 11, Cream 12, Basil 13, Frogman 15, See 17, Once 18, Duster 19, Aides 20, Usurps 22, Fibs 24, Sir 25, Nominee 26, Bleat 27, Zebra 28, Alias 29, Austere 30, Stand 31, Ether.
DOWN: 2, Return 3, Bridge 4, Son 5, Satan 6, Vicious 7, Earl 8, Goatee 12, Basis 13, Focus 14, Occur 15, Stein 16, Erase 18, Depot 19, Applaud 21, Silent 22, Fillet 23, Beware 25, Natty 26, Bran 28, Are.

◆SU-DO-KU-6680◆

				4				5
	5			8			4	
	1		5			8	7	3
			9	7		1		
	7						6	
		9		3	6			
7	2	3			9		1	
	6			1			9	
5				2				

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6679

1	4	3	7	6	9	2	5	8
6	2	7	4	5	8	1	3	9
8	5	9	1	3	2	4	7	6
2	1	6	3	7	5	8	9	4
9	7	8	2	1	4	5	6	3
5	3	4	9	8	6	7	2	1
4	8	5	6	2	3	9	1	7
7	6	2	8	9	1	3	4	5
3	9	1	5	4	7	6	8	2

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2024 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
I1	A1	R1	B3	C3	S1	F4		
								RACK 2
I1	O1	C3	T1	M3	M3	T1	4th Letter Triple	
								RACK 3
T1	T1	O1	I1	R1	N1	N1		
								RACK 4
I1	A1	R1	O1	N1	T1	O1	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 5
N1	N1	O1	E1	P3	N1	S1		

PAR SCORE 160-170
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	P3	A1	D2	E1	D2	
A1	V4	I1	O1	N1	I1	C3
S1	P3	R1	I1	N1	G2	
S1	A1	F4	A1	R1	I1	

RACK 1 = 16
RACK 2 = 62
RACK 3 = 9
RACK 4 = 18
JUDD'S TOTAL 105

PAR SCORE 65-75

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

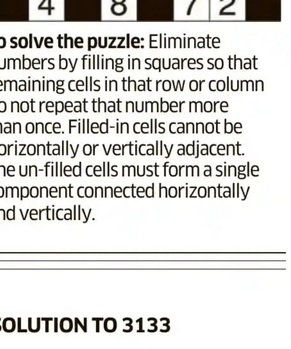
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RVAAL

RNAKD

CLFIEK

LEBGTO


Just so you know, the album is scratched plus a corner is bent.
That's OK. This has some scratches as well. Someone also wrote their name on the back.
SWAP
MEET
GETTING DEALS DONE AT A SWAP MEET USUALLY INVOLVES SOME ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGAIN TUNER WRENCH GLOOMY
Answer: She had doubted that she'd like his new beard, but it was — GROWING ON HER

HITORI-3134

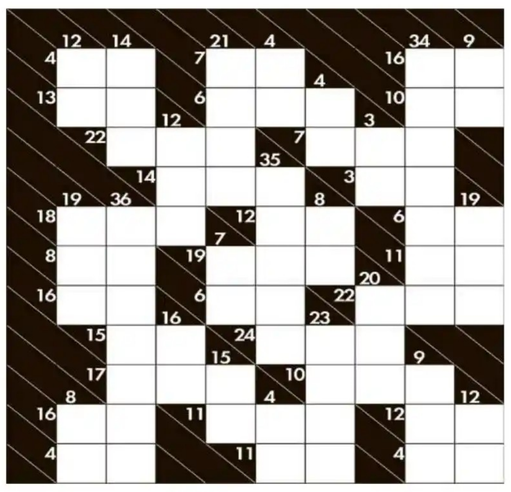
1	6	5	4	7	4	8	4
3	4	2	5	8	4	3	7
4	2	4	1	1	3	7	6
4	5	4	1	4	6	5	2
3	1	7	6	2	4	5	4
7	4	8	8	4	1	6	5
6	4	6	7	8	5	4	3
4	8	6	2	3	7	4	6

SOLUTION TO 3133

■	7	2	1	■	6	3	4
3	■	6	■	5	8	4	■
8	5	7	3	■	2	■	6
1	■	4	■	2	3	5	8
7	6	■	2	8	1	■	5
5	■	1	■	4	■	6	2
2	8	5	6	3	4	■	1
■	4	■	8	■	7	2	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3134



SOLUTION TO 3133

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3652

9			7				4	
3								
				8		5		1
4							8	
					3			
	1	6	8					9
		5	2	3		6		
	3					4		8

SOLUTION TO 3651

5	4	9	3	8	2	6	1	7
7	2	3	6	1	5	8	4	9
8	1	6	9	7	4	2	3	5
4	5	8	1	2	6	9	7	3
3	6	1	5	9	7	4	2	8
9	7	2	8	4	3	1	5	6
6	8	5	4	3	1	7	9	2
2	3	4	7	6	9	5	8	1
1	9	7	2	5	8	3	6	4

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Residents battle a wildfire near Ourense in Spain on Monday. AP/PTI

Over 1,100 deaths linked to Spain's heatwave

MADRID, AFP: More than 1,100 deaths in Spain have been linked to a 16-day heatwave that ended Monday, according to an estimate released on Tuesday by the Carlos III Health Institute.

Officials reported 1,149 excess deaths in Spain from August 3-18 that could be attributed to the scorching temperatures, the public health agency said.

The institute used data from Spain's Mortality Monitoring System (MoMo) that was compared to historical trends.

It also incorporates external factors, such as weather data from the national meteorological agency AEMET, to assess likely causes of mortality spikes.

Although MoMo cannot confirm a direct cause between deaths and high temperatures, it provides the most reliable estimate of fatalities in which heat was likely a decisive factor.

For July, the Carlos III institute had attributed 1,060 excess deaths to intense heat, a 57% increase over the same period last year.

Climate experts say global warming is driving longer, more intense, and more frequent heat waves around the world.

Switzerland may join UK's 'dirty money' task force

LONDON, REUTERS: Switzerland is considering joining a British-led international task force targeting kleptocrats and recovering stolen assets, it said on Tuesday, as it seeks to shake off its reputation as a haven for dirty money.

British foreign minister David Lammy discussed the International Anti-Corruption Coordination with the Swiss government during a visit earlier this month, according to a UK government official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Switzerland's foreign ministry said the country currently has observer status of the IACCC and had been invited by Britain to become a full member.

"In this context, Switzerland is currently examining various options for its future cooperation with the IACCC. No decision has yet been made on this," it said in a statement.

US air support possible for Ukraine security guarantee: Trump

It will be a rough situation if Ukraine-Russia talks fail, says US Prez

WASHINGTON, AFP

President Donald Trump said on Tuesday that US air support and European ground troops could be part of security guarantees for Ukraine, warning of a "rough" situation if talks between Moscow and Kyiv fail.

"When it comes to security, they're willing to put people on the ground," he told Fox News, referring to European allies he met at the White House on Monday.

"We're willing to help them with things, especially, probably, by air, because no one has the kind of capability we have—really, they do not," Trump said.

He added his assurance that no US ground troops would deploy to Ukraine, and categorically ruled out Ukraine joining the Western military alliance Nato.

US President Donald Trump hosts European leaders at the White House in Washington DC on Monday. AFP

Post-war security is a key concern for Kyiv after more than three years of Russian invasion. Moscow has long said it will not tolerate Ukraine joining Nato and has opposed the idea of Western troops deploying to the former Soviet territory. Trump said that "France and Germany, a couple of them, UK—they want to have boots on the ground."

"I don't think it's going to be a problem, to be honest with you. I think, I think Putin is tired of the war," he added. Trump said that following his talks Monday with European leaders he is pushing to organise a bilateral summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy—followed by another in which he would take part.

"I called President Putin, and we're trying to work out a meeting with President Zelenskyy. We'll see what happens there," he said. "If that works out, then I'll go to the trilateral meeting and close it up."

Saying it was possible Putin would back out, Trump added: "I hope President Putin's going to be good and if not, it's going to be a rough situation."

Zelenskyy, he said, "has to show some flexibility also."

In addition to the question of guaranteeing Ukraine's future security, another key sticking point in ending the war is the status of the vast swaths of land occupied by Russia.

Switzerland ready to host Putin for peace talks

ZURICH, REUTERS: Switzerland would be ready to host Russian President Vladimir Putin for any peace talks on Ukraine despite an existing arrest warrant for him from the International Criminal Court (ICC), Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis said on Tuesday.

Neutral Switzerland is a signatory to the ICC, but Cassis told Swiss national broadcaster SRF that, provided Putin was coming for peace purposes, the country could receive him. "This has to do with our diplomatic role, with international Geneva as (the European) headquarters of the UN," Cassis told the broadcaster.

French President Emmanuel Macron proposed Geneva as a potential location for peace talks between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, following a meeting in Washington between US President Trump, Zelenskyy, and European leaders.

India profiteering from reselling Russian oil, says US

It is unacceptable, says Bessent

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent on Tuesday accused India of profiteering from its sharply increased purchases of Russian oil during the war in Ukraine, saying Washington viewed the situation as unacceptable.

Bessent told CNBC in an interview that Russian oil now accounted for 42% of India's total oil purchases, up from under 1% before the war, and contrasted that with longtime buyer China, whose Russian oil purchases had risen to 16% from 13%.

"India is just profiteering. They are reselling," Bessent said. "What I would call Indian arbitrage—buying cheap Russian oil, reselling it as product—has sprung up during the war, which is unacceptable."

US President Donald Trump this month announced an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods in response to New Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, bringing the total tariffs to 50%.

Trump has credited the Indian tariffs with piling pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin to agree to work toward ending the war in Ukraine, but has stopped short of imposing similar tariffs on China over its purchases of Russian oil.

Bessent, asked about the US decision not to impose comparable tariffs on China, said the situation was "completely different" given that Beijing was a longstanding buyer and had not engaged in the kind of "arbitrage" carried out by India.

Israel wants Hamas to free all hostages

JERUSALEM, AFP

A senior Israeli official on Tuesday said the government stood firm in its call for the release of all hostages in any future Gaza deal, after Hamas accepted a new truce proposal.

Mediators are awaiting an official Israeli response to the plan, a day after Hamas signalled its readiness for a fresh round of talks aimed at ending nearly two years of war.

Mediator Qatar expressed guarded optimism for the new proposal, noting that it was "almost identical" to an earlier version agreed to by Israel.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior Israeli official told AFP the government's stance had not changed and demanded the release of all hostages in any deal.

The two foes have held on-and-off indirect negotiations throughout the war, resulting in two short truces during which Israeli hostages were released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, but they ultimately failed to broker a lasting ceasefire.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

A church is moved at a speed of half a kilometre per hour on a specially designed trolley with 224 wheels, during relocation due to the expansion of an iron ore mine, in Kiruna, Sweden, on Tuesday. REUTERS

Man jailed for racist death threat emails to Sunak

▸ A 21-year-old man has been sentenced to 14 weeks' imprisonment and a two-year restraining order for sending racist death threats to Rishi Sunak in June last year, when he was still the British prime minister, PTI reports from London.

Liam Shaw from Birkenhead in Merseyside, north-west England, pleaded guilty to sending two threatening and offensive emails to the public parliamentary email address of Sunak, MP for Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire, the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said. The emails were spotted by the British Indian leader's personal assistant and reported to the police.

Rishi Sunak

383 aid workers killed in 2024: UN

▸ A record 383 aid workers were killed in global hotspots in 2024, the United Nations humanitarian office said on Tuesday on the annual day honouring the thousands of people who step into crises to help others, AP/PTI reports.

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said the record number of killings must be a wake-up call to protect civilians caught in conflict and all those trying to help them. "Attacks on this scale, with zero accountability, are a shameful indictment of international inaction and apathy," Fletcher said in a statement on World Humanitarian Day.

Penguins are weighed during the annual weigh-in photocall event at London Zoo on Tuesday. AFP

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalabhavana, BTM layout,
Bannerughatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029
Ph: 080 – 41106508, e-mail:cemkwb@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Gem Portal of Government of India Only)

No: KWB/TEC/CE D&M/DCE.M/AEE-MIS/AMC-2025/424/2025-26 Date:18.08.2025

NAME OF THE WORK: Annual Maintenance of Servers, Computers, Laptops, Printers, Scanners, VC Equipments and Peripherals in Jalabhavan, WWLC Yelahanka of KUWS & D Board And KUWSDB Section at UDD, Vikasa Soudha for a period of Two Years.

GeM TENDER NUMBER: GEM/2025/B/6580689

For further details may be obtained through Gem Portal website:**https://gem.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (D&M),
KUWS & D Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2378/CCL/2025-26

BENGALURU AIRPORT CITY LIMITED

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BENGALURU AIRPORT CITY LIMITED
Administration Block,
Kempe Gowda International Airport,
Bengaluru - 560 300.
Web: www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S.No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	Common Area Interior Finishes works for Business Park 02 -Phase 1	1. Main lobby, Lower Ground floor lobby, Typical floor, Shuttle lift lobby works 2. Vistors Toilet works 3. Other Common area works at staircases, service lift lobbies, basement finishes, basement staff toilets, etc

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Inforamtion: Available on BIAL website (Tenders (bengaluruairport.com)). Reference No: **BACL/EOI/BP2/3474**
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 6th September 2025 at 20.00 Hours.
Note: Any further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E–Mail: ramesh.hegde@bialairport.com or register and login to BIAL E-Tendring website **(https://www.bialtenders.com) Event ID: 3474**
Name and address of the entity seeking RFQ:
Head – Procurement & Contracts
Kind Attention: Mr. Anil Kumar Patil
Bangalore International Airport Ltd.
Alpha 3A, Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email for communication: **ramesh.hegde@bialaiport.com**
Phone No: 080 – 6678 2203
www.bengaluruairport.com

Government of Karnataka
GULBARGA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KALABURAGI
(Autonomous Institution of Govt. of Karnataka)
E-mail:directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Phone No 08472-260252

No. GIMS/KLB/Tender/SSH/CR/87/2025-26/1338 Date:-18-08-2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi invites Re-tender for eligible bidders in bid system (Techno-commercial Bid & Financial Bid) in e-procurement 2.0 mode for the SUPPLY OF **Equipments/Instruments & Other Items at GIMS, Super Specialty Hospital, KALABURAGI.** Details are available in the site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date and time for upload of e-tender in E-procurement platform as follows.
1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from website-https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in No.GIMS/KLB/TENDER/SSH/CR/87/2025-26, DATED:18/08/2025, **DME/2025-26/IND1655,** 2) Last Date for Queries : 22-08-2025 at 17:00 pm, 3) Pre-bid Meeting: 25-08-2025 at12:30 pm, 4) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: 02-09-2025 at 4.30 pm, 5) Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid: 03-09-2025 at 05:00 pm, 6) Opening of Tenders Financial bid: 04-09-2025 at 11:30 am, 7) Tender amount: **Rs. 1,43,56,100=00,** 8) EMD: Rs. 2,15,500=00, 9) Contact Details: Director, GIMS Kalaburagi veresh Nagar sedam road Kalaburagi 585105. Office Email: directorgimsgulbarga@gmail.com Land Line:08472-260252 Cell:+91 9482093568 Tender Section Email: gimstenderklb22@gmail.com Cell:+91 9972688602.

Sd/- Director,
Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/407/KSMC&A/2025-26

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL. IBC Division No.1,
Kembhavi. Tq: Shorapur. Dt: Yadgiri
Email:-ee_ibcdiv1kembhavi@yahoo.com Phone no.08443278674

No: KBJNL/IBC/D-1/PB-1/Tender/2025-26/302 Date:-18-08-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-4
(ONLY THROUGH KPPP TENDER SYSTEM)

`On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL IBC Divn No-1 Kembhavi, the under signed invites tenders on Construction of 1x17.5MVA stand by power Transformer bay at 110/6.6KV, switch yard and allied works of Indi LIS (Gutti Basavanna) pump house(KBJNL) at Kembhavi, Yadagir dist with 5 years maintenance at Indi LIS and shifting of 1x12.5MVA 110/6.6KV Transformer and commissioning at ALBC Head work. (Indent no.1559)/Call-4 tender amount Rs. 242.04lakhs EMD:3.64 Lakhs percentage basis from The contractor should have registration certificate of A copy of the valid Registration certificate of class-1 contractor or super grade electrical contractor, license issued by CEIG. The tenderers are required to submit tenders in two cover system (The blank tenders can be obtained through website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box).

1) The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from 20-08-2025 to 30-08-2025 in the web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2) Last date for Submission of completed e-tendering documents will be 30-08-2025 upto 4.30 PM 3) A pre-bid conference will be held on 26-08-2025 at 11.00 AM at the office of the Chief Engineer canal zone-2 Rampur. 4) Technical bid shall be opened electronically in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.IBC div no.1 Kembhavi on 02-09-2025 at 11.00 AM. In respect of bidders whose tender fee has been confirmed on the e - Tendering platform. 5) Financial bid shall be opened electronically in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.IBC div no.1 Kembhavi on 04-09-2025 at 11.00 AM. In respect of bidders whose tender fee has been confirmed on the e - Tendering platform. 6) If any of the dates mentioned above happened to be a general holiday, the next working day holds good. 7) Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
KBJNL IBC Division-1 Kembhavi,
DIP/YDG/206/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಅರಮನೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–01

ಸಂ: ಮಕ್ಲವಿ/ಆ.ವಿ–006 & 007/2025–26/148 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18.08.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಸೂಚನೆ

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಮೆಗಾ ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್‌ಗಾಗಿ CCTV ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಅಡುಗೆ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ Rate quotes ಅನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಗತ್ಯ ಪರಿಕರಗಳ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ mcu.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ವಯ Rate quotes ಅನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.08.2025 ರೊಳಗಾಗಿ** ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ಐಡಿ: mcublr@gmail.com, mcu@karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/2380/SA/2025-26 ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

Office of the Executive Engineer,
Harangi Rehabilitation Division,
Kushalnagara - 571234,
Somwarapet Taluk, Kodagu District

Tel. No. : 08276-274365
Fax. No. : 08276-274365
e-mail :eehrdksh@gmail.com
Karnataka State.

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
NO.: 05/25-26, Date 19-08-2025
(Through KPPP Portal Only-Short term)

Item Rate tenders are invited on KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer. Harangi Rehabilitation Division, Kushalnagara Taluk, Kodagu District on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from eligible contractors for the work Repairs to Kanive Aquaduct coming under this Division. Estimated amount of work Rs. 80.00 lakhs

The contractors can have access/download tender document from KPPP portal and the last date to submit the filled tender document is **28-08-2025 till 4.00 PM.** Technical bid will be opened on **29-08-2025 at 04.30 PM** onwards and Financial bid will be opened after the approval of Technical Bid. All the information is available on KPPP web-site address **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Tender processing fee as stipulated in the KPPP portal is applicable for the work. Additional information can be obtained from the undersigned during the office hours.

Executive Engineer, Harangi Rehabilitation Division,
Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha,
Kushalanagar, Somwarpet Taluk,
Kodagu District - 571234, Karnataka

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mysore – 570023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO.09/ 2025-26/ DATED: 12-08-2025
(Two Cover System)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-4** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **2024-25 Year 5054 Rain Damage** for Nanjangud Taluk. Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 18.08.2025 to 02.09.2025 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/ queries on tender **Date: 01.09.2025 upto 16.00 Hours**. If possible the date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 03.09.2025 after 17.00 hours**. After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl.No :1 Name of work : ASPHALTING OF ROADS IN BETWEEN YHALEHALLI VILLAGE TO RAJURU VILLAGE - FROM YHALEHALLI VILLAGE TO ROAD CONNECTING TO DUGHALLI-SHETTIHALLI MAIN ROAD, ROAD FROM TARGANAHALLI VILLAGE TOWARDS KAPPASOGE, ROAD FROM CHANDRAVADI-BASAPURA MAIN ROAD TOWARDS LANKE, ROAD FROM KADABURU VILLAGE TOWARDS RAJURU OF NAJANGUDU TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT. **(Indent No.RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17781) Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs) 500.00 Approximate Value of work(Rs. in lakhs) : 421.126 Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs) : 6,31,689.00 Contractor Eligibility :** Class – II & above

Sl.No :2 Name of work : CONSTRUCTION OF CC. DRAIN AND CC. ROADS AND ASPHALTING WORK IN VILLAGES BETWEEN HUNASANALU VILLAGE TO HARTHALE-MASSGE ROAD - HUNASANALU, KURUHATTI, KALIHUNDI, GOLURU, DEBURU, ROAD FROM KARALAPURA VILLAGE TOWARDS HANDIJOGI COLONY, ROAD FROM HANDIJOGI COLONY TOWARDS K.R.B.C. CANAL AND IN VILLAGE LIMIT OF KANENOORU, CHANDRAWADI IN NAJANGUDU TALUK, MYSORE DISTRICT. **(Indent No. RDPR/2025-26/RD/ WORK_ INDENT17784) Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs) 500.00 Approximate Value of work(Rs. in lakhs) : 421.184 Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs) : 66,31,777.00 Contractor Eligibility :** Class – II& above

For more details visit website: htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Mysore (Ph: 0821-2560853) during office hours. **AE-Phone No.** 8123267587

DIPR/DDMYS/823/KSMCA/454/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, PRED Division, Mysore**

Govt finances unlikely to be hit by proposed cut in GST rates: Analysts

'Effective weighted average GST rate may drop to 9.5%'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The proposed reduction in goods and services tax (GST) rates, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently, will help boost consumption and is unlikely to have any significant impact on the government's tax collections, analysts said.

"With the proposed two-rate system now being looked at, though the effective rate could be somewhat lower, but actually because of easier implementation and fairer accounting processes, there actually could be a boost to fiscal revenues in the longer term," YeeFarn Phua, Director, Sovereign & International Public Finance Ratings, S&P Global said at a webinar on India rating upgrade.

On August 14, S&P Global upgraded India's long-term sovereign credit ratings citing economic resilience, low inflation and sustained fiscal consolidation. A day later, on August 15, the Prime Minister announced GST reforms and lower rates by Diwali.

"It's still very early days to see the actual fiscal impact, but we don't think that the government would reform this system to the point that it would hit fiscal revenues for them," Phua said.

According to SBI Research, the revenue loss through GST rate adjustment could be more than offset by increased consumption and cess adjustments.

GST rationalisation to boost consumption.

"Fiscal deficit for FY26 unlikely to be breached. Debt Market fears thus appear somewhat myopically overblown," SBI Research said in a note.

As per SBI Research, the effective weighted average GST rate may come down to 9.5% after the proposed rate rationalisation by Diwali from 14.4% recorded at the time of inception in 2017.

It said the rate rationalisation would help boost growth and lower inflation. "Since the GST rate of essential items (food, cloth, etc.) is expected to decline from 12% to 5%, the CPI inflation in this category may also come down by 10-15 bps after considering a 60% pass through effect on food items," it said.

Apart from this, the rationalisation of GST rates of services also leads to another 5-10 bps reduction in CPI inflation on other goods and service items, considering a 25% pass through effect. "Overall, we believe CPI inflation may be moderated in the range of 20 to 25 bps," SBI Research noted.

The current GST structure (GST 1.0) consists of four main rate slabs: 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. These rates apply to most goods and services across the country. In addition to the main slabs, there are three special rates: 3% on gold, silver, diamond and jewellery, 1.5% on cut and polished diamonds and 0.25% on rough diamonds.

A GST compensation cess is also levied on select goods such as tobacco products, aerated drinks and motor vehicles at varying rates. This cess is used to compensate states for any revenue loss resulting from the transition to the GST system.

As part of the rationalisation, the main tax slabs would be reduced to two - 5% and 18%.

Over 600 MSMEs in limbo as Bescom denies power line

The deprivation is in line with SC order of Dec 2024

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Over 600 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Bengaluru with a cumulative investment of about Rs 2,000 crore are unable to start their manufacturing operations for lack of power connectivity. The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) is not providing them power connection for constructing their factories in revenue lands and not obtaining building completion and occupation certificates from the concerned authorities.

Bescom's move to withhold their applications for new power connection subsequent to the Supreme Court order issued in December 2024 which directed the state governments to halt new power and water connections to buildings that have been constructed without approved plan. Any new building that has not been issued completion and occupation certificates from the concerned authorities is denied power connection.

"The Karnataka government implemented the apex court order immediately. As a result, about 25,000 applications from the MSME sector are pending for new power connections across the state since February this year", Hussain S.M, General Secretary of Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association told *DH*.

He said, "The delay in power connection is impacting the small scale units very badly. These units have taken huge loans from banks and if they do not start their manufacturing immediately, their loan repayment will stop and their accounts will turn into NPAs. It will also impact jobs in the sector," Hussain said.

He urged the state government to process the MSME applications and provide power connection immediately. "The government should also file a review petition in the Supreme Court to modify the judgement so that industries do not suffer further," he suggested.

Many MSME units have constructed their factory buildings on revenue lands that were not considered industrial estates much before the apex court came out with its order, he added.

When contacted, Bescom officials said that they were helpless in this regard since it is a Supreme Court directive. However, officials said that the Urban Development Department is planning an amendment to a few bye-laws to solve the issue of the OC mandate for power supply.

Kassia to hold vendor development programme for MSMEs

BENGALURU, DHNS: MSME Development & Facilitation Office under the Ministry of MSME is organising a two-day vendor development programme in association with District Industries Centre, and Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (Kassia) between August 21 and 22 at the association's auditorium in Bengaluru.

The main objective of this programme is to provide a platform for MSME sector for developing marketing opportunities with central public sector undertakings and central government departments as per the Public Procurement Policy 2012, B R Ganesh Rao, President, Kassia said. During the event, CPSEs such as BEL, BHEL, DRDO, HAL, MRPL, NAL, Rail Wheel Factory, and South Western Railways will be showcasing their products.

'Q1 GDP growth may rise to 6.7% on higher govt capex, exports'

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's GDP is expected to grow by 6.7% in the first quarter of the current financial year on the back of upfronted government spending and jump in exports to some regions, rating agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

ICRA's growth projection is higher than the Reserve Bank of India's recent forecast of 6.5% for the quarter. While on a year-on-year basis it is expected to accelerate sequentially it will be lower.

Government's spending has been a major driver in the quarter.

India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth stood at 6.5% in the first quarter of 2024-25. In January-March 2025 quarter the GDP growth was 7.4%, as per the latest National Statistics Office (NSO) data.

The official data for the April-June quarter is scheduled to be released on August 29.

As per ICRA analysis, services sector growth is likely to accelerate to an eight-quarter high of 8.3% in April-June period. However, both industrial and agriculture sector growth is likely to decelerate.

Agriculture sector growth is estimated to decline to 4.5% in April-June period from 5.4% expansion recorded in the previous quarter, while industrial sector growth may fall to 4% in Q1 of 2025-26 from 6.5% recorded in Q4 of 2024-25.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said investment activities in the first quarter of the current fiscal was boosted by the front-loading of government capital expenditure (capex) amid heightened uncertainty owing to geopolitical tensions and tariff-related developments.

"Benefitting from robust Government capital as well as revenue spending, upfronted exports to some geographies and nascent signals of improved consumption, the pace of expansion in economic activity in Q1 FY2026 is estimated at 6.7%," she said.

However, Nayar noted that the growth was likely to decelerate in the remaining three quarters of the current fiscal.

"Amidst continuing tariff-induced uncertainty for exports and private capex, we fear that growth will taper off in the subsequent quarters, which would limit the expansion in India's GDP to 6.0% in FY2026," she said.

As per Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the government of India's gross capital expenditure spiked by 52% year-on-year to Rs 2.8 lakh crore in the quarter ended June 2025. The aggregate capital outlay and net lending of 24 state governments, for which the CGA data is available, stood at Rs 1.1 lakh crore in April-June quarter, which is 23% higher when compared with the corresponding period of the last year.

AI is now a core workplace skill

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has now become a daily workplace reality, as mid-career professionals are ready to navigate AI-integrated workplaces. AI has now moved beyond the hype cycle, and employees prefer more training to stay future-ready.

The Work Ahead study, released by job site Indeed, revealed that a majority of workers are confident about technologies such as generative AI and agentic AI, and that they expect to use them in the next two to five years. The survey of more than 3,000 professionals across the country also revealed that many see AI as a skill that could open doors to higher pay, promotions and new career paths.

"There's a determined confidence building across India's workforce," said Sashi Kumar, Head of Sales, Indeed India. "Mid-career professionals, in particular, are not only using AI but actively seeking upskilling opportunities to master it. The rise in interest around Agentic AI signals that we are at the beginning of a transformation, one where job seekers are not just responding to change, but leading it," he added.

Among those surveyed, about 34% expect to use GenAI tools frequently in the near future. Many employees are already anticipating the adoption of Agentic AI tools, which can autonomously complete complex tasks.

Also, mid-career professionals aged 35 to 54 years say they want more AI training to stay future-ready, compared to just 41% of their younger counterparts.

AI offers real-time budget tracking

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) in the Asia Pacific (APAC) view AI as a valuable way to ensure ROI (return on investment) through better financial control. According to new research from Salesforce, close to 63% of APAC CFOs reported having a conservative AI strategy in 2020, but currently that number has declined to just 3%. A CFO survey respondent said that AI provides real-time budget tracking, which improves forecasting accuracy.

TCS opens AI-enhanced ops centre in Latin America

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has opened a new AI-driven operations centre in Mexico City. The new office is TCS's eighth operations centre in Mexico, where the company has built a workforce of over 11,000 associates over the last 22 years. This new office is a key component of TCS's growth strategy in Latin America and is expected to generate employment opportunities within the country over the next two years. The facility will be staffed with AI specialists and software engineers with expertise in emerging enterprise technologies. TCS serves over 400 major clients in the region, including prominent names such as Cemex, Febraban, Banamex, and Bradesco.

Smart wristband shipments jump 118.5% YoY in Q2 2025

BENGALURU, DHNS: There has been growing consumer curiosity and adoption of next-gen wearable forms as brands expand beyond traditional categories. Smart wristband shipments have surged by 118.5% year-on-year (YoY) to 83,000 units in the second quarter of this year.

According to International Data Corporation's (IDC) India Monthly Wearable Device Tracker, Smart Glasses shipments surged to 50,000 units in the April to June period from 4,000 a year ago, fueled by new launches from Meta and Lenskart. The average selling price (ASP) stood at $134.0.

Smart Rings shipments recorded a 2.8% YoY growth with 75,000 units shipped in the second quarter. The report also mentioned that brands are increasingly partnering with audio technology innovators to improve sound quality and boost average selling prices (ASPs). In the upcoming quarters, the earwear segment is expected to feature AI-driven enhancements, including personalised voice assistance, environment-aware sound tuning, and next-generation noise cancellation.

Commenting on the earwear category, Vikas Sharma, senior market analyst, Smart Wearable Devices, IDC India, said, "Future devices will also prioritise seamless cross-device connectivity, enabling users to switch smoothly between phones, laptops, and smartwatches."

Singareni Collieries wins licence for gold, copper mines exploration in K'taka

HYDERABAD, PTI: State-owned coal mining firm, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on Tuesday announced securing an exploration licence for gold and copper blocks in Devadurga, Karnataka, through the auction conducted by the Union Ministry of Mines.

SCCL Chairman & Managing Director N Balram said that Singareni emerged as the L-1 bidder by quoting 37.75% royalty in the online auction, an official release said. He described it as a historic beginning for Singareni in critical mineral exploration and the first success in line with the Telangana government's vision to expand SCCL into new sectors.

He further said exploration activities in these mines would be completed within the next five years. Singareni's exploration division will soon commence research in the Devadurga region of Karnataka, where gold and copper deposits are located, the release said.

After completing various stages of exploration, SCCL must submit the final results to the central government in the form of a report. The Centre will then put these mines up for auction for commercial mining. The company that secures the mining rights—be it SCCL or another firm—will have to pay royalty to the Karnataka government, of which 37.75% will go to SCCL throughout the life of the mine, it said. The exploration work is expected to cost about Rs 90 crore, of which Rs 20 crore will be provided as subsidy by the union government.

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB/CJR-1/2024 Date: 19.08.2025

NOTIFICATION

NOTIFICATION REGARDING EXTENSION OF DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF CIVIL JUDGES AND DATE OF CONDUCT OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

It is intimated that Notification No. HCRB/CJR-1/2024 dated 10.02.2025, which was kept in abeyance vide supplementary Notification No.HCRB/CJR-1/2024 dated 12.03.2025 with regard to filling up of 158 posts of Civil Judges, is hereby proceeded vide Notification No. HCRB/CJR-1/2024 dated **18.08.2025** and the last date for submitting online application is hereby extended to **01.09.2025**, and the same can be submitted through online link **https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in/**. The last date to make payment of fees is **02.09.2025, 11:59 p.m.** Further, it is notified that the Preliminary Examination is scheduled to be held on **11.10.2025**.

The detailed notification is available on the official web-site of High Court of Karnataka and in Karnataka Gazette.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR GENERAL AND SECRETARY,
CIVIL JUDGES RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE.
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/2382/Zen/2025-26

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, MESCOM Bhavana, Bejai, Mangaluru-575 004
Phone: 0824-2885796 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No. MESCOM/SEE(P)/EE(W)AEE(W)/I/164897/2025 Date: 16.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP Mode Only)

MESCOM invites tender for the work of Repair and Reconditioning of 11KV class single coil/multi coil Conventional (Aluminium wound) and 3/4/5 Star Rated failed Distribution Transformers of various Capacities and Conversion of CSP to Convernational bolts & nuts type on lumpsum percentage (%) basis (Material, Labour & Salvage) at Transformer repair center located at Shiralakoppa in Shikaripura Division of Shivamogga O&M Circle jurisdiction vide respective bid enquiry no. MESCOM/2024-25/SE0122/Call-2

The interested eligible bidders may log on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ on or after 21.08.2025

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Proc)

DIPR/MNG/655/MPL/25-26

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ
ಎಸ್.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್. ಎದುರು, ಹೈಟೆನ್ಷನ್, ಜೋಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ-570018
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0821-2001737, E-Mail: ka.hootagalli.cmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಹೂ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/ಸ.ಆರ್-08/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.08.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2024–25 ಮತ್ತು 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಹಾಗೂ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ KW-01, KW-02 & KW-03 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ KPP, ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಐಟಂವಾರು ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ಶುದ್ಧ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರಿನ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅರ್ಹ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02/09/2025** ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/09/2025** ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.22ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:30/08/2025** ಸಂಜೆ **5.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ KW-03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:10/09/2025** ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಗನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಬಿಲ್ ಪಾವತಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ವಿವರಗಳು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT47695	10.00	12,500/-	SC
2	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47709	12.25	30,625/-	OTHER
3	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT47721	42.00	52,500/-	CAT-II (A)
4	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT47744	9.60	12,000/-	SC
5	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47748	3.50	4,375/-	SC
6	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT47749	10.00	25,000/-	OTHER
7	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT47751	10.00	12,500/-	CAT-II(A)
8	DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT47752	10.00	25,000/-	OTHER
9	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47753	10.00	25,000/-	OTHER
10	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33310/CALL-2	50.00	85,000/-	OTHER
11	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT33309/CALL-2	100.00	85,000/-	ST
12	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33334/CALL-2	100.00	85,000/-	SC
13	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33332/CALL-2	100.00	1,62,000/-	OTHER
14	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33337/CALL-2	50.00	85,000/-	OTHER
15	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33267/CALL-2	50.00	42,500/-	SC
16	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33270/CALL-2	50.00	84,800/-	OTHER
17	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33269/CALL-2	60.00	1,01,600/-	OTHER
18	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33266/CALL-2	100.00	1,69,500/-	OTHER
19	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33265/CALL-2	60.00	1,02,000/-	OTHER
20	DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT32767/CALL-2	87.00	1,48,000/-	OTHER
21	DMA/2025-26/SE5637/CALL-2	10.80	27,000/-	
22	DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT47653	22.00	37,500/-	

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೂಟಗಳ್ಳಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೩/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಸಿ/813/2025–26

HUBBALLI - DHARWAD BRTS COMPANY LTD.
(CIN : U60200KA2021SGCO63887)
Directorate of Urban Land Transport,
B Block Building, 2nd Floor, NWKRTC Bus Terminal, Near New Court Road, PO; Vidyanagar, Hosur, Hubballi - 580021. Phone : 0836-2222007/08, E-mail : hdbrts@gmail.com

Tender No. : H.D.B.R.T.S./FIN/FD/2025-26/229
Date : 18-08-2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION SEEKING RATE OF INTEREST FOR FIXED DEPOSITS
(Nationalised Banks & RRBs only)

Hubballi - Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd., Hubballi intends to park/retain the Fixed Deposits. The eligibility criteria and other necessary details are available in the **E-portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The interested Banks (Nationalised Banks and Regional Rural Banks only) Meeting Eligibility Criteria may Participate in the E-bidding Process from 20-08-2025 and the Last Date to Submit the Bid is 30-08-2025 at 17.00 Hours.**

Sd/- Managing Director,
Hubballi - Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd.,
Hubballi.

DIPR/Dharwad/565/Manipal/2025-26

Department of Technical Education
Palace Road, Bangalore-560001 Ph: 2220 0291.

NO: DTE-PLAN0SPS1/26/2025 Dated: 19/08/2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender Schedules are as below

Item Name	Date of floating tender in KPP portal	Date and time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and time for bidding through KPP portal
DTE/2025-26/IND0041/ Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Desktop Computers	12.08.2025	22.08.2025 at 12.00 p.m.	12.09.2025 at 5.30 p.m.
DTE/2025-26/IND0042/ Supply, Installation & Maintenance of Computers (AIO) Laptops and Printers	18.08.2025	-	02.09.2025 at 5.30 p.m.

The Department reserves the right to cancel or reject the tenders without any notification. Details in this regard may be obtained from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Director,
Department of Technical Education.

DIPR/CP/RO/2381/AAPL/2025-26

Name and Address of the entity seeking Proposal:
BANGALORE AIRPORT HOTEL LIMITED
Administration Block,
Kempegowda International Airport,
Bengaluru - 560 300
Web: www.bengaluruairport.com

NOTICE TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

S.No.	Tender Title	Short description of Scope of Work
1	Public area Interior and Finishing works of 775 keys Combo Hotel Vivanta & Ginger.	1. The scope of work includes Supply, Fabrication, Installation, and Handing over of complete interior finishing works for all public areas of the hotel project. This includes but is not limited to: • Main lobby, reception, lounges, and lift lobbies (Ground Floor) • Restaurants, bars, ballroom, pre-function areas, meeting rooms, restrooms etc. 2. The scope encompasses high-end civil finishes, flooring, wall and ceiling finishes, decorative elements, fixed furniture, Loose furniture and coordination with MEP services. All works are to be executed as per approved design intent, material specifications, mock-up approvals, and project timelines, maintaining the highest standards of quality and workmanship expected for premium hospitality development.

Pre Qualification Criteria & other Inforamtion: Available on BIAL website (Tenders (bengaluruairport.com)). Reference No: **BAHL/CH/EOI/3473**
Submission Due Date & Time for all the above: 6th September 2025 at 20.00 Hours.
Note: Any further Addendums to this EOI shall be made available in BIAL website.
Applicants who are interested shall express their interest through E–Mail: ramesh.hegde@bialairport.com or register and login to BIAL E-Tendring website **(https://www.bialtenders.com) Event ID: 3473**
Name and address of the entity seeking RFQ:
Head – Procurement & Contracts
Bangalore International Airport Ltd.
Alpha 3A, Kempegowda International Airport,
Devanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 300
Email for communication: **ramesh.hegde@bialaiport.com**
Phone No: 080 – 6678 2203
www.bengaluruairport.com

R Praggnanandhaa

Praggu beats Gukesh to share lead

ST. LOUIS (USA), PTI: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa outplayed World Champion D Gukesh in the opening round of the Sinquefield Cup Chess tournament to rise to the third position in live world rankings.

He now shares the lead with the unstoppable Levon Aronian of United States, who outsmarted Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan after the opening round on Monday.

In other games of the first round Fabiano Caruana of USA played out a draw with Duda Jan-Kryzstof of Poland while wild card Samuel Savian split the point with American country-mate Wesley So while Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France also drew with another Frenchman Alireza Firouzja.

With eight rounds still to come in the USD 350,000 prize money tournament, as many as six players share the third spot behind Praggnanandhaa and Aronian while Gukesh and Abdusattorov are at the bottom of the heap hoping to open their respective accounts in the next round.

Pragganandhaa faced the Queen's gambit accepted by Gukesh who played with black pieces.

The solid approach was under the scrutiny early as Gukesh spent a lot of time in a known position and went for a dubious set-up that involved early exchange of queens.

Praggnanandhaa had the Bishop pair as playing with white pieces gave him a distinct advantage.

Results round 1: R Praggnanandhaa (Ind) bt D Gukesh (Ind); Fabiano Caruana (Usa) drew with Duda Jan Kryzstof (Pol); Samuel Savian (USA) drew with Wesley So (USA); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) lt to Levon Aronian (USA); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) drew with Alireza Firouzja (Fra).

IN BRIEF

Khushbu stars for KFC

▸ Khushbu Saroj scored four goals as Kemp FC trounced Legends de Sporting FC 11-0 in the Karnataka Women's League at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Results: Kemp FC: 11 (Sunalinda Iawren 3rd, Khushbu Saroj 8th, 10th, 22nd, 36th, Amisha Bala 13th pen, Rivka Ramji 26th, Ruchi 43rd, 56th, Mithila Raman 69th) bt Legends de Sporting FC: 0; Kickstart FC: 5 (Mariyammal BalaMurugan 19th, Kajol D'Souza 23rd, 53rd, 80th, Laishram Bibicha Devi 90th+2) bt Maatru Pratishtana FC: 0.

Edmund retires at 30

▸ Former British No. 1 tennis player Kyle Edmund announced his retirement from the sport at the age of 30, reports AP from London.

Edmund won two ATP titles and, in 2018, became only the second British man after Andy Murray to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open.

He was part of the Britain team that won the Davis Cup for the first time in 79 years, and also represented his country at the 2016 Olympic Games.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Maharaja Trophy: Gulbarga Mystics vs Mysore Warriors **(3:15 pm)**, Hubli Tigers vs Bengaluru Blasters **(7:15 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

FOOTBALL

Durand Cup: Diamond Harbour vs East Bengal **(semifinal, 7:00 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

US Open: Mixed Doubles Championships. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET ASIA CUP

Gill returns as the vice-captain

Jitesh rewarded for strong IPL show; Shreyas misses the bus

Shubman Gill returned to the T20I fold, the right-hander named as the vice-captain for the Asia Cup. PTI

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Test skipper Shubman Gill's return to vice-captaincy in T20Is was the only major decision the national selectors took while announcing the squad for the Asia Cup on Tuesday as the wise men chose not to tinker much with a successful combination.

While most members of the squad for the continental bash, due to be held in the United Arab Emirates from September 9-28, picked themselves, the major point of deliberation was: Would Gill return to T20Is and, if so, would he replace Axar Patel as the vice-captain?

Well, both those questions were answered with an emphatic 'yes' by the selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar. Gill, who last played a T20I in the bilateral series in Sri Lanka where he was the deputy to Suryakumar Yadav, has been in impressive form since the IPL, and the selectors just couldn't ignore the current superstar of Indian cricket. However, his return will force a change in a settled batting order.

Gujarat Titans' captain Gill scored 650 runs in this season's IPL, and he carried that blistering form to England in the five-Test series where he hammered four centuries en route to amassing a record 754 runs.

"The last time when he played T20Is for India, post (the) T20 World Cup (2024), when we went to Sri Lanka (in July 2024), not (the tour of) Zimbabwe. I was leading then and he was the vice-captain and that's when we started a new cycle for (the next) T20 World Cup," said skipper Suryakumar at a press conference at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai.

"After that he got busy with all the Test series (at home). He did not get the opportunity to play T20 cricket because he got busy playing Test cricket and also the Champions Trophy. He is there in the squad (now) and we are happy to have him," he added.

With Gill's return, the management has a tough decision to make in figuring out who opens with the Punjabi. During Gill's absence, Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson racked up runs in blistering fashion and forcing one of them to drop down the order could be a hard call. Another option is to play Gill at one drop, which would mean sacrificing the talented Tilak Varma, who scored two back-to-back unbeaten centuries in the series against South Africa last November.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar welcomed the selection headache, saying it's Suryakumar and head coach Gautam Gambhir's problem to solve! "There are more options (for top order) now and Shubman has been in a great form anyway. When they get to Dubai, they can decide on the playing XI according to the opposition and the conditions. It's their headache to pick the batting line-up, ours was to pick the 15."

Beyond Gill there weren't any major surprises, barring the inclusion of lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah. While there wasn't much doubt about his place in the squad, considering the tournament is a major build-up event on the road to the T20 World Cup to be held in India and Sri Lanka early next year, the only point of concern was his workload.

"We have had a nice break from the England series. We are trying to look after him. Most fast bowlers are monitored and it won't change. How we require him (for future tournaments) is also important," said Agarkar when asked about Bumrah's workload management.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Jitesh Sharma was rewarded for his impressive performances in the IPL where he produced some game-changing knocks lower down the order that were instrumental in the franchise lifting the coveted trophy for the first time. He was picked as the second wicketkeeper, the 31-year-old pipping Dhruv Jurel.

There was a buzz that Shreyas Iyer, who was in phenomenal form for Punjab Kings this IPL, may return owing to his adeptness at playing spin on the slower tracks of the UAE. But the stylish batter had to miss the bus owing to an abundance of talent.

Karnataka's Prasidh Krishna, who won the Purple Cap for most wickets (25) this IPL, was named as standby with Harshit Rana edging him for the third specialist seamer's slot.

India are placed along with arch-rivals Pakistan, Oman and UAE in Pool A.

INDIA SQUAD

■ **Suryakumar Yadav (capt), Shubman Gill (vice-capt), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Axar Patel, Jitesh Sharma (WK), Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav, Sanju Samson (WK), Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh.**

■ **Standby players:** Yashasvi Jaiswal, Prasidh Krishna, Washington Sundar, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel.

Fit-again Renuka in; Shafali out

Pratika included in Harmanpreet-led Indian squad for the 50-over World Cup

Renuka Singh Thakur will be a vital cog in India's bowling attack as they look to win their first ODI WC. FILE PHOTO

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

India have left dashing opener Shafali Verma out of the Women's ODI World Cup squad, while the impressive Pratika Rawal's consistent push for a permanent opening spot has been a successful one.

Shafali's omission does not come as a shock after falling out of favour last year. She was, however, given a chance to open in the three-match series Australia 'A' but failed to make a case, managing just 92 runs.

The 24-year-old Pratika has been ticking the right boxes and will join the trusted quartet of Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur, Jemimah Rodrigues and Richa Ghosh in India's top six. Opening with Smriti, she has scored 703 runs in 14 innings at an average 54.07.

Harleen Doel, who has upped her game by adding the much-needed consistency, has also made the 15-member team, despite copping some questions over her intent. She is expected to bat at three.

Fit-again Renuka Singh, who has not played any cricket since suffering a stress fracture in March, will spearhead the bowling group alongside the talented Kranti Gaud and Arundhati Reddy.

All-rounder Amanjot Kaur is expected to be an understudy for the lead pacers after earning the trust of the selectors despite some questions over her back after she missed the final two ODIs against England. The 25-year-old was deployed in Pooja Vastrakar's absence and has excited the backroom staff.

Yastika Bhatia was also named as the reserve wicket-keeper and utility batter behind first-choice Richa.

The selectors might have been tempted to blood Tejal Hasnabis and Sayali Satghare, who were a part of the England series, but have been left out. However, Sayali will take part in the ODI series against Australia and will be replaced by Amanjot for the World Cup.

India will go into their World Cup campaign with three specialist spinners in Sneh Rana, Sree Charani and Radha Yadav along with the experienced Deepti Sharma.

The Neetu David-led committee also named a 15-member squad for the one-day internationals against Australia, which precedes the World Cup with only one change (Sayali Satghare for Amanjot Kaur) in both the squads. The three-match series begins on September 14.

India will play two warm-up fixtures against England and New Zealand, before they get their campaign underway against Sri Lanka in the tournament curtain-raiser on September 30.

India squad: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Renuka Singh Thakur, Arundhati Reddy, Richa Ghosh (wk), Kranti Gaud, Amanjot Kaur, Radha Yadav, Sree Charani, Yastika Bhatia (wk) and Sneh Rana.

Proteas crush Aussies in opener

CAIRNS (AUSTRALIA), AFP

Aiden Markram top-scored with 82 during South Africa's win over Australia in Cairns on Tuesday. AFP

Aiden Markram hit 82 before left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj tore through Australia's new-look batting order as South Africa claimed the ODI series opener by 98 runs in Cairns on Tuesday.

Sent in to bat, Markram — opening for the first time in ODIs since 2021 — crunched nine boundaries in his 81-ball knock to power South Africa to a formidable 296-8. Skipper Temba Bavuma (65) and Matthew Breetzke (57) also helped set the tone for the three-match ODI series.

In reply, openers Mitchell Marsh and Travis Head flattened South Africa's pacemen as Australia raced to 60-0 after seven overs. But the match flipped after the introduction of spin, with Maharaj conjuring rampant turn and he picked up four wickets in his first 15 balls.

He finished with career-best figures of 5-33 from 10 overs as Australia were dismissed for 198 in the 41st over. It was a strong bounce back from South Africa after their 2-1 defeat in the T20 series between the teams.

Marsh, who is captaining Australia in this series in place of Pat Cummins, played a lone hand with 88 runs off 96 balls in a disappointing batting effort from Australia, transitioning after the recent retirements of veterans Steve Smith and Glenn Maxwell from ODI cricket.

Brief scores: South Africa: 296/8 in 50 overs (Aiden Markram 82, Temba Bavuma 65, Matthew Breetzke 57, Ryan Rickelton 33, Wiaan Mulder 31; Travis Head 4-57, Ben Dwarshuis 2-53) bt Australia: 198 all out in 40.5 overs (Mitchell Marsh 88, Ben Dwarshuis 33, Travis Head 27; Keshav Maharaj 5-33, Lungi Ngidi 2-28, Nandre Burger 2-54). **Result:** South Africa won by 98 runs. **Series:** SA lead 1-0

Sports Bill now an Act after President Murmu's assent

NEW DELHI, PTI: The National Sports Governance Bill has become an Act after President Droupadi Murmu **(in pic)** gave her assent to the legislation that promises to overhaul India's sports administration and has been described as a path-breaking reform by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

The Presidential assent came on Monday, stated a Gazette notification by the central government.

"The following Act of Parliament received the assent of the President on the 18th August, 2025 and is hereby published for general information -- The National Sports Governance Act, 2025," it stated.

As has been reported by PTI, the legislation that was ultimately passed by the Parliament carries two major amendments to the bill that was originally presented.

The scope of Right to Information (RTI) has been narrowed to include only those sports bodies that rely on government funding and support, effectively keeping the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) out of its purview.

The cricket board had been opposing coming under RTI as it is not dependent on government funding.

"A recognised sports organisation, receiving grants or any other financial assistance from the Central Government under sub-section (1) or from a State Government, shall be considered as a public authority under the Right to Information Act, 2005, with respect to utilisation of such grants or any other financial assistance," the Act states.

'Equal pay, new format in IGPL is exciting'

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Vani Kapoor (left) and Ridhima Dilawari. DH FILE PHOTO/ X

A big challenge for the Women's Golf Association of India (WGAI), since its inception in 2004, has been to increase the pool of professional players on its Tour.

With the sport in the country experiencing considerable growth over the last two decades, it is but natural to expect a thriving women's golfing circuit. In reality, at least in context of the numbers that still linger around 50 golfers, the development has been painstakingly slow owing to various factors.

The WGAI now joining hands with the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), is expected to be the much-needed game-changer for Indian women's golf. This was the shared sentiment top Indian pros - Vani Kapoor and Ridhima Dilawari - expressed during an online interaction on Tuesday.

"This is the start of a new era for Indian golf," said 31-year-old Vani. "Equal prize money with a new format makes it exciting to be a part of. Now the youngsters will look at golf as a career option. It is an opportunity to grow together as a golfing community," pointed the Order of Merit (OoM) leader with four wins on WGAI this season.

Ridhima, second on OoM, feels the IGPL promises to be a platform for women golfers to express themselves.

"There are so many of us doing well on different tours. We deserve the limelight. India has an appetite for sports and this will give us a chance to showcase our stories for more people to know about us," said the 27-year-old.

While Vani has been a professional since 2012, Ridhima turned pro in 2019. An integral part of the WGAI, both the girls from Delhi, stress that the growth lies in the quality and depth of the field and not in the numbers.

"Yes, there might be only a few of us.. say 40-50 pro golfers in India. But look at how many out of this limited pool have moved on to play on the bigger tours outside," said Ridhima as Vani added: "There are 15-20 of us competing around the world. Today, if a player finishes no. 1 on WGAI, she gets four spots on the LET (Ladies European Tour)."

For Champika Sayal, secretary general of WGAI, other than IGPL potentially playing a role in strengthening women's golf in the country, she feels that the mixed format league will be good preparation for the new mixed team competition added as the third medal event in golf at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

"Competing together will help build team spirit. This is the type of evolution that golf in India needed.

"The visibility of female golfers through IGPL, hopefully, will also attract more sponsors to bring international tournaments to India. The plan is to get an international event somewhere in Karnataka because they have some really good courses. This will happen in the near future."

Bangladesh step in after Pakistan pullout

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bangladesh and Kazakhstan have replaced Pakistan and Oman for the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 29, as per the schedule released on Tuesday.

Hosts India have drawn China, Japan and Kazakhstan in Pool A, while Pool B comprises Malaysia, Korea, Chinese Taipei and Bangladesh. Malaysia and Bangladesh will get the continental tournament underway with their opening fixture on August 29, before India play China in the first day's last game.

The final, third-place match and 5/6th place classification games are scheduled on September 7. The Indian government had said that it would provide visas to the Pakistani players for the tournament, but the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has refused to travel, citing security concerns.

The organisers had in advance approached Bangladesh to fill up Pakistan's place in the eight-team tournament. Pakistan's participation in the Asia Cup — a qualifying tournament for the 2026 World Cup — was uncertain after the military confrontation with India following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Rashmika shoots gold, Manu bags bronze

SHYMKENT (KAZAKHSTAN), PTI: India's double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker won the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol competition of the Asian Shooting Championship on Tuesday. Rashmika Sahgal was crowned champion in the junior women's air pistol event.

Bhaker shot 219.7 in the eight-woman finals to finish in third position. China's Qianke Ma claimed the gold medal with 243.2 after pipping Korean Jiin Yang, who settled for the silver with 241.6.

Rashmika then struck gold, India's third individual yellow metal of the competition, displaying amazing career consistency to score 241.9 and finish a massive 4.3 points ahead of silver-winning Korean Han Seunghyun.

It was double delight for Rashmika (qualification score 582), as she combined with Vanshika Chaudhary (573) and Mohini Singh (565) to win the team gold in the event.

Bhaker (583) also won a team bronze in women's air pistol, alongside reigning Asian Games champion Palak (573) and Suruchi Singh (574). Both Palak and Suruchi, however, missed out on the individual final by three and two points, respectively.

In the final, Bhaker was fifth after the first five-shot series and fourth after the second, but a 10.5 on the 11th single shot took her up to second behind eventual winner Ma Qianke of China.

From then on, with Ma out of reach, it was a battle of attrition between Korean 25m pistol Olympic champion Yang Jiin, experienced Iranian Haniyeh Rostamiyan and Bhaker. The Indian, though, managed to fire the big shots when it mattered the most, to settle for bronze, with Haniyeh finishing fourth.

In the junior women's final, Rashmika was involved in a battle for supremacy from the get-go with Korea's Han. However, the Indian crept past her opponent for the first time after the 13th single shot and from there never looked back, a 10.9 on her 15th being the icing on the cake.

Manu Bhaker. X

Tanvi, Unnati to lead Indian challenge

NEW DELHI, PTI: Fast-rising shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Unnati Hooda, along with boys' doubles pair of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu, will lead a 25-member Indian squad at the BWF World Junior Championships to be held in Guwahati from October 6 to 19.

The Indian contingent also features Asian Junior Championships bronze medallist Vennala Kalagotla and Rakshitha Sree, making it one of the strongest Indian line-ups for the marquee junior event.

The Suhandinata Cup (mixed team championships) will be played from October 6 to 11.

Indian team: Boys' Singles (U-19): Rounak Chouhan, Gnana Dattu TT, Lalthazuala H, Suryaksh Rawat
Girls' Singles (U-19): Tanvi Sharma, Vennala Kalagotla, Unnati Hooda, Rakshitha Sree S.
Boys' Doubles (U-19): Sumith A.R./Bhavya Chhabra, Bhargav Ram Arigela/Viswa Tej Gobburu, Vishnu Kedhar Kode/Mithileish P. Krishnan
Girls' Doubles (U-19): Vennala Kalagotla/Reshika U, Gayatri Rawat/Mansa Rawat, Aanya Bisht/Angel Punera
Mixed Doubles (U-19): Bhavya Chhabra/Vishakha Toppo, Lalramsanga C/Taarini Suri, Vishnu Kedhar Kode/Keerthy Manchala, Vansh Dev/Dianka Waldia.

Natural Grace for main event

KOLKATA SELECTIONS

Neil Darashah-trained Natural Grace, to be ridden by Neeraj Rawal, is fancied to win the Betbricks7 Play and Win Handicap, the feature event of the Kolkata races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs at the races on Wednesday.

The first race starts at 2:30 pm.

1. Select Handicap - 1200M: I Smell The Danger 1, Winsangel 2, Yuvi 3.
2. Hovercraft Handicap - 1600M: True Faith 1, Jahzara 2, Wordsmith 3.
3. Betbricks7 Calcutta Juvenile Sprint - 1100M: Pantazi 1, Star Pride 2.
4. Betbrick7 Rising Stars Handicap - 1100M: Bundle Of Charm 1, Kerry Gold 2, Cool Daddy 3.
5. Betbricks7 Play And Win Handicap - 1400M: Natural Grace 1, Main Street 2, Snowpiercer 3.
6. Vajra Handicap - 1400M: Enola Holmes 1, Wonderful 2, Cashalaika 3.
Day's best: Enola Holmes. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. **I treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **II treble:** 4, 5 & 6.

TENNIS CINCINNATI OPEN

Alcaraz, Swiatek rule Cincy

Spaniard wins after unwell Sinner retires; Pole lifts 11th WTA 1000 title

CINCINNATI, AFP

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz (left) and Poland's Iga Swiatek celebrate with their Cincinnati Open spoils on Monday. AFP

Carlos Alcaraz won the ATP Cincinnati Open title on Monday after defending champion Jannik Sinner retired due to illness in the first set. Meanwhile, Iga Swiatek filled in a piece of her career tennis puzzle as she won the WTA title for the first time with a 7-5, 6-4 defeat of Jasmine Paolini.

World No. 1 Sinner came into the final feeling unwell and lost the first seven points of the match before throwing in the towel at 5-0 down in a game played in 30-degree Celsius heat.

Sinner will now focus on recovery with the US Open starting on Sunday.

The Italian, who was due to take part in the US Open's revamped mixed doubles on Tuesday, has withdrawn from the competition.

"I'm disappointed, I didn't feel great from yesterday," Sinner said afterwards. Sinner said he is now pointing to the final Grand Slam of the season..

Despite the temporary health setback, Sinner is pleased with his showings in 2025.

Sinner lasted for just 22 minutes, calling for the doctor after losing the fifth game and shortly after going to shake hands with Alcaraz.

It was the second match in a row Alcaraz had won over an ailing opponent, following his win over Alexander Zverev in the semi-finals.

Alcaraz won his 22nd career title as he claimed his 17th victory in a row at the Masters 1000 level.

He now leads Sinner 9-5 and lost to the Italian in their last match, the Wimbledon final last month.

Swiatek beats Paolini

The WTA final, lasting for under two hours, featured 16 break-point chances, with the Polish winner converting on six of 10 while Paolini struggled to make the most of opportunities.

The six-time Grand Slam singles champion's 11th career win at the WTA 1000 level has left her within striking distance of the all-time record of 13 titles held by Serena Williams. Swiatek won Cincinnati without dropping a set.

"It's always tough in Cincy," Swiatek told the Tennis Channel after her maiden win in Cincinnati. "This gives me a boost of confidence. "I'm happy with the work we've been doing. (The team) had to convince me to play in a different way. I'm now happy with that process; it all feels even better after the match. I'm glad I finished in straight sets."

The 24-year-old backed up her breakthrough Wimbledon trophy with the Midwest honours and now heads to the last Grand Slam of the season at the US Open with a major confidence boost after the 24th title of her career. Swiatek is due to partner Norway's Casper Ruud in the US Open's doubles event.

Worlds on the mind at Inter-State meet

BENGALURU, DHNS

GK Vijayakumari

With 47 athletes in its roster, Karnataka has sent the fourth-largest squad to the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championships beginning in Chennai on Wednesday. They are behind the hosts Tamil Nadu (79), defending champions Haryana (65) and Uttar Pradesh (64).

However, more than the state honour, the five-day event also presents the last chance to qualify for the World Athletics Championships, whose cut-off date is set at August 24 (except for the 10,000m, 35km race walk, 20km race walk, combined events and relays). It's important to note that an alternate route to qualification for the event, which is taking place in Tokyo next month, is through the world rankings when all the allotted berths are not filled.

Among the star attractions for Karnataka at the Inter-State meet is World Athletics Bronze Level Continental Tour gold medallist GK Vijayakumari and her fellow 400m runners Priya Mohan and MR Poovamma. The Worlds' qualification standard for the event is set at a stiff 50.75 seconds for them.

100m sprinter Manikanta Hoblidar, who competed at the World University Games recently and has clocked a stunning 10.22 seconds last May in Bengaluru, will make a strong case in a tough field. Aryan Manoj, who clocked his personal best of 10.62 seconds, will also be representing the state in the event. The Indian pack chases the stiff automatic qualification mark of 10.00 seconds.

Star attractions

Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar, sprinter Animesh Kujur and javelin thrower Annu Rani are among some of the stars expected to hog the limelight.

The domestic showpiece will, however, miss some of the country's top athletes like two-time Olympic medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, steeplechasers Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary, sprint hurdler Jyothi Yarraji and multiple national record holder long distance runner Gulveer Singh.

Ridhima, Jasmine eye top prize

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ridhima Dilawari and Jasmine Shekar, winners of the last two events on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, will headline the field alongside local girl Vidhatri Urs and Neha Tripathi when the 11th leg of WGAI tour gets underway at the Prestige Golfshire, near Nandi Hills on Wednesday. A field of 29 professionals and five amateurs will tee off on the par-72 course.

In July, Ridhima won the 10th leg after being runner-up on two other occasions this season. Earlier Jasmine won the ninth Leg. Mysuru's Vidhatri is yet to taste success.

Smaran R

Smaran's fifty powers Mystics to comfortable win over Shivamogga

MYSURU, DHNS: Gulbarga Mystics notched up a comfortable seven-wicket win over Shivamogga Lions in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 at the Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Stadium.

Their spinners, Shashikumar Kamble (2/20) and Prithviraj Shekhawat (2/22), applied the squeeze to hold the Lions at 133/7 before Smaran R (53 not out off 30 balls) and Nikin Jose (40 off 42) conquered the chase with three overs to spare.

In the second innings, Dhruv Prabhakaran gave the Lions the early breakthrough with the wicket of Luvnith Sisodia (7 off 3) as early as the second over.

In the day's second match, Devdutt Padikkal smashed a 45-ball 63 to power Hubli Tigers to a 23-run win over Mangalore Dragons.

Brief scores: Shivamogga Lions: 133/7 (Tushar 32; Shashikumar Kamble 2-20, Prithviraj Shekhawat 2-22) lt to Gulbarga Mystics: 135/3 in 17 overs (Nikin Jose 40, Smaran R 53) by 7 wkts.

Hubli Tigers: 152/7 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 63, Abhinav Manohar 36; Ronit More 2-18, Kranthi Kumar 3-40) bt Mangalore Dragons: 129 all out in 18.3 overs (Macneil Noronha 35; Shreesha Achar 2-26, KC Cariappa 3-9, Yash Raj Punja 3-29, Nathan D'Mello 2-29).

DH DECCAN HERALD

ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ

Freedom Healthy Cooking Oils presents

cuisines of karnataka Season 4

The Culinary journey of Karnataka returns!

Get Ready to Delight Your Senses with Every Bite.

LPG Partner: IndianOil Indane SAFE·RELIABLE·CONVENIENT
Kitchen Partner: Prestige
Special Partner: BHIMA
Snacks Partner: Lay's

Associate Sponsors: SBI card | Vencobb No.1 Tastiest Chicken | eco crystal WATER TREATMENT An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Company

COLLATERAL

Unleash Your Inner Chef in an Epic Cooking Challenge & Exclusive Video Series!

Get ready for Karnataka's grandest culinary Journey – Season 4 of Cuisines of Karnataka is coming to your city!

This is your chance to be a part of an unforgettable cooking challenge, where passionate food enthusiasts will showcase their culinary talents and learn from the best. Over 7 weeks, 3 celebrity chefs will demonstrate 15 iconic recipes celebrating the rich and diverse flavours of Karnataka's culinary heritage.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to cook, compete, and learn from the culinary masters!

Scan to Register & be a part of Karnataka's Biggest Culinary Event!

For terms and conditions: https://www.deccanherald.com/cok2025tnc

*T&C apply.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com